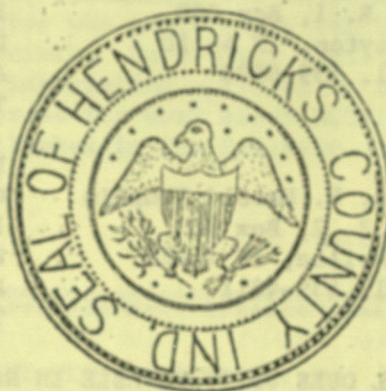


# HENDRICKS COUNTY

## HISTORY BULLETIN



VOLUME

XVII

NUMBER

I

FEBRUARY 1986  
PUBLISHED BY

THE HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DANVILLE, INDIANA



HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

ORGANIZED 1967

OFFICERS 1985

PRESIDENT

Mr. J. Robert Carter  
3 South Drive  
Brownsburg, IN 46112  
Tel. 852-5142

VICE PRESIDENT

Betty Bartley  
R. R. 6, Box 213  
Danville, IN 46122  
Tel. 745-2828

SECRETARY

Miss Jewell Bell  
212 East Road 200 N  
Danville, IN 46122  
Tel. 745-4055

TREASURER

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

HISTORIAN

Mrs. H. Harold Templin  
R. R. 2, Box 86  
Danville, IN 46122  
Tel. 539-4311

PUBLICITY

Miss Jewell Bell  
212 East Road 200 N  
Danville, IN 46122  
Tel. 745-4055

GENEALOGISTS

Miss Grace Cox  
494 West Clinton St.  
Danville, IN 46122  
Tel. 745-2552

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

HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS

Danville Public Library  
101 S. Indiana  
Danville, IN 46122  
Attention: Betty Bartley  
Tel. 745-2604

Plainfield Public Library  
Guilford Twp. Historical Collection  
1120 Stafford Road  
Plainfield, IN 46168  
Attention: Susan Miller Carter  
Tel. 839-6602

Mrs. Roy Fisher  
Pittsboro, IN 46167  
Tel. 892-4780

Mrs. H. Harold Templin  
R. R. 2, Box 86  
Danville, IN 46122  
Tel. 539-4311

ANNUAL DUES \$3.00 PAYABLE IN NOVEMBER

\*\*\*\*\*

The Hendricks County Historical Bulletin is published quarterly in February, May, August and November. It is distributed without charge to members of the Society and to Hendricks County School Libraries. Individual copies of \$2.00. Communications concerning back copies or individual copies should be addressed to our secretary. Contributions or suggestions to The Bulletin should be mailed to the editor.

Margaret Baker  
(Mrs. C. Rawleigh Baker)  
9 Round Hill Road  
Danville, IN 46122  
Tel. 745-2115

\*\*\*\*\*

HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS  
Greetings from the President:

It's not every day that Hollywood comes to Hendricks County. The cast and crew of the movie "Hoosiers" became a part of our county's history in 1985. During the filming of the corn harvest scene near Danville, one of the crew surveyed the autumn scenery and said, "This film is going to make everyone fall in love with Indiana".

Our county's history is as varied as our scenery. Those of us in the Historical Society have seen a view of our past--the people and places who built our county--and have fallen in love with it.

\*\*\*\*\*  
This issue of the Bulletin contains a bonus--a membership directory. It is hoped this list will serve a twofold purpose: first, to give our members a chance to get acquainted--for those who attend the meetings, it will be an opportunity to "meet" those who cannot; for our out-of-county members, it will be a chance to "meet" all of our resident members.

The second purpose of this directory is to acquaint our members with those people who are not listed, i.e., candidates for membership. Each of us know a friend, a relative, or a neighbor who would enjoy the benefits of membership in the Hendricks County Historical Society. We are all familiar with the entertaining and informative meetings, and the interesting articles in the Bulletin. We should make a point in this new year to spread the word about HCHS! As names of new members are received, they will be published in the Bulletin. Let's all try to add to that list in 1986.

Betty Bartley

\*\*\*\*\*  
NEXT MEETING FEBRUARY 2

"Hendricks County Historical Books, Papers, and Postcards" is the topic for the next meeting of the Hendricks County Historical Society, Sunday, February 2, 1986, 2 P.M., at the Security Savings building, 1500 East Main, Danville.

The speaker for this meeting is Jay H. Small, of Indianapolis. Mr. Small has been a dealer in rare books and papers for 15 years, and a collector of rare books for nearly 50 years. He will discuss important books published in and about Hendricks County, and what kind of papers are of historic value. There will be a question and answer session following his talk.

The public is invited to attend this informative meeting.

\*\*\*\*\*

NOVEMBER 3, 1985 MEETING

Our November meeting was held in the Fellowship Hall of the North Salem Christian Church with approximately 45 in attendance. Robert Carter, president, called for the report of the Nominating Committee which was as follows: Betty Bartley, pres., Libbe Hughes, vice-pres., Jewell Bell, sec., and Blanche Wean, treas.



The slate was enthusiastically accepted. In other business, it was announced that the PRAIRIE FARMER DIRECTORY of circa 1920 was being reprinted and orders were being taken. Robert Carter presented Dorothy Kelley with a certificate of appreciation for her work as curator of the museum. Mary Ann Moore, who has worked closely with Dorothy, told of the many hours of tireless work Dorothy has given to the museum. She has spearheaded the drive for a museum from the very start and much of her work has involved manual labor, elbow grease and sweat. Truly it has been a labor of love, and we love and thank her for being instrumental in making our museum one to be proud of.

Libbe Hughes was the speaker and she told us of Col. Able D. Streight and the Indiana 51st Regiment in the Civil War. She read excerpts from letters describing life in the battle zones. It was most interesting and well researched. The Union and Center Township ladies served refreshments during the social hour.

THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE HAS PLANNED THESE INTERESTING PROGRAMS FOR THE YEAR. CHECK THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR SO YOU CAN PLAN AHEAD.

#### HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 1986 Programs

February 2, 1986 - Danville

Hendricks County Historical Books, Papers, and Postcards  
by Jay Small  
Security Savings 1500 E. Main, Danville

May 4, 1986 - Avon

Avon: A Community Study  
by Lorie Bohlen and the third grade Avon Community Schools  
Avon United Methodist Church East Highway 36, Avon

August 3, 1986 - Brownsburg

Hoosiers: The Movie  
by Jody Whicker and Debbie Burns  
Brownsburg Public Library 450 S. Jefferson, Brownsburg

November 2, 1986 - Plainfield

Plainfield and Cartersburg Gravel Road Company  
by Ida Mae Good Miller  
Plainfield Public Library 1120 Stafford Road, Plainfield

#### NEWS FROM THE INDIANA ROOM DANVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

We have recently received three genealogies as gifts: Leichleiter & Variants, a gift from Ida Modglin, THE HOVERMALES OF MORGAN CO. W. VA., BATH CO., KY, & WASHINGTON CO., MD., a gift of the author, Charles W. Roach, Jr., and MY KINFOLK, by Lois Shirley Crayton (more about this in another section of the Bulletin).

For the Civil War enthusiasts, the Library will be receiving materials from the Civil War Round Table of West Central Indiana. The organization is dedicated to the study of all aspects of the American Civil War and to promote the interchange of knowledge concerning it. It meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 P.M. in Rm. 120, Julian Science & Math Center, on the DePauw campus, at Greencastle. Information on individual membership is available at the Library.

The Indiana Room has had some new shelves added, and with some re-arranging, has more space in the genealogy and local history section. We hope to be filling up the space with more books for our researchers.

#### THE PEOPLE'S GUIDE OF HENDRICKS COUNTY - 1874

Directories are one of the tools often used by genealogists, handy for looking up an ancestor, then moving on to the next source. They seldom glance at unrelated names. But sometimes a closer look reveals a most interesting picture.

1874 was a busy year for William Cline, Jr. and O. F. McHaffie, both residents of Hendricks County. That was the year they compiled and published The People's Guide of Hendricks County. It was also the year they published People's Guides for Bartholomew, Boone, Hamilton, Henry, Johnson, Marion, Montgomery, Morgan, and Vermillion counties.

The format of these directories was simpler: a brief history of each township, then a listing of residents. The information on each resident is sparse: name, occupation, post office or location of residence, place of birth, year of birth, year that they settled in the county, political and church affiliations.

The people in the Hendricks County People's Guide included the expected Republicans and Democrats. Other types of politics represented included Independent, Neutral, Liberal, Granger, Reform., Mixed, Secessionist, Temperance, Torpid, and even one Old Whig.

The religions practiced by county residents were even more varied. Protestants, Presbyterians, Methodists, Christians, Baptists (Regular, Missionary, and German), and Friends were included, along with many lesser known sects, such as Seceder, Christadelphian, Universalist, Lutheran, Episcopal, Gentile, Panthaist, Electionist, Christian Union, Adventist, and United Brethren.

Some listings call for further investigation. There was one practitioner of the "Faith of Dow". One resident listed his religion as "Slim", another as "Thin", and one as "Very thin Christian". Some declared "No religious views", others listed themselves as "Free Thinkers", "Independent", or in one case, "Infidel".

The occupations given are even more varied. Addison Coffin of Clay township, an out-spoken Friend, gave his as "underground RR". D.O. Garrison ran a hackline from Stilesville to Amo. J.C.L. Martin of Amo was an off-hand flourisher and penman. James Mason, of Clay township, was a dealer in veneering knots. J. M. Lacy ran a curiosity shop in Plainfield. James Wilson of Eel River township had an occupation unheard of today, but common before the days of inner spring mattresses: that of feather renovator.

Like today, many people need two jobs to make ends meet. Some unlikely combinations were: fur trader & postmaster, wagon maker & undertaker, dentist & trader, carpenter & pettifogger (a lawyer dealing in petty cases), and minister & sewing machine agent. By the way, sewing machines must have been a popular item: there were five agents selling them in Danville.



The Pittsboro stove factory employed several men in a variety of positions: worker, foreman, engineer, stove cutter, equalizer, and night watchman.

Some entries were notable for other reasons. John H. Craig, of Danville, gave his occupation as "showman", which was understandable, since he gave his weight as 525 lbs. His wife, Mary J. Craig, was listed as "the largest woman in the State, weight 782 lbs."

S. A. Verbrake, also of Danville, wanted it known by all that he "has lived on the same block 42 years".

But perhaps the most interesting story is that of Isaac Carman of Eel River township. He was a "carpenter & inventory of wings, but did not get the flop good". Who knows, if he had succeeded, Hendricks County could have become the birthplace of modern aviation.

#### CHRISTMAS AT THE MUSEUM

"Christmas at the Museum" Open House was held the weekends of December 7 and 8, and December 14 and 15. Approximately 85 attended including 19 young people from the Indiana United Methodist Children's Home in Lebanon, IN. The house decorations were furnished by Jim Lakin of Danville Florist. The weather was cold but at least there was neither rain nor snow. The hot spiced cider and assorted cookies made a tasty finish for a tour. Christmas at the Museum wasn't really confined to two week-ends. The week before Christmas vacation, three Danville South Elementary classes visited the museum and a club held its Christmas meeting there too.

We received some fancy petticoats all done up with lace and embroidery. These were not permanent press either. We have more artifacts showing how life was lived before the "fast lane" came...a kerosene lamp, a hand-operated sheep shears, a child's metal tea set to name a few. We also received an electric radio and record player. This will come in handy to play our collection of records as we were the recipient of a very large record collection. We have many albums as well as single records, some of which were recorded on only one side. The classics include Brahms "Concerto No. 2 in B-flat Major" for piano and orchestra by Vladimir Horowitz with Arturo Toscanini and the N.B.C. Orchestra. Operettas include music by Rudolf Firml with selections from "Rose Marie", as well as many others of his works. We also have dance music including rhumbas by Xavier Cugat.

#### AUTOGRAPH BOOKS

It is interesting to go through autograph books, especially those of an other era. Covered in velveteen, shades of red were popular colors. As one leafs through the books, it is evident that years have taken their toll for most of the pages are faded, yellow with age. Some pages contain masterpieces of beautiful Spencerian script while others are decorated with pen and ink drawings. Much emphasis was placed on handwriting in those days (and it is a shame that has been discontinued) yet the writing on some pages was cramped and labored but usually readable.

The sentiments were varied. Some were serious with religious overtones but most were lighthearted and good for a chuckle, recalling happy occasions. "Remember Christmas night at Mary's?" "We'll never forget the picnic at Tharp's Grove!" etc.

But the ones that amuse us most were little gems like

"Fall from the top of a burning deck,  
Fall from a tree and break your neck,  
Fall from the beautiful heavens above,  
But never, never fall in love."

or

"Onward Christian bed bugs  
Marching down the sheet,  
When you get to the bottom  
Just tickle Susie's feet."

or

"Kisses have jerms  
So it is stated,  
Kiss me Baby  
I'm vaccinated."

Wouldn't it be fun to collect these tidbits of yesteryear? Send your in and we will continue this series.

Jewell

#### MY KINFOLK...by Lois Crayton

Lois Crayton has done what many of our members should have done--compiled and published her family history.

Her book is entitled, MY KINFOLK. In her foreword she states that she has put together this family history for her relatives: "Even to my grandchildren, it may seem unimportant or irrelevant, at least for many years. Eventually, though, they may begin to wonder about their roots...when it's too late to ask me. So I have recorded what I personally know or have been able to find out through others."

The book deals with the following families: The Shirleys, the Phillipses, the Hadleys, the Bringles, and the Craytons. Each section of "names and dates" is followed by a text, giving details of the people and places, the events and stories that make up the history of the families.

The following is taken from the chapter on the Sherman and Lois Crayton Home. It tells about the young couple's arrival in New York, where Sherman Crayton was enrolled in the Teacher's College, Columbia University.

By 10:00 P.M. on the third day we arrived in New York and stopped at a hotel at about 90th Street. We knew that semi-furnished apartments were available in buildings owned by the University, and we secured one of these on the next day. It had three cots, one of which I covered with a fabric that suggested a sofa. There were a few chairs, a gas cooking stove, and a small refrigerator. There was a wash tub in the kitchen, in which I did our laundry by hand, drying it on clotheslines on the roof in good weather. I didn't realize that we were living in a "tenement" until a young cousin visiting us from California referred to it that way. We had brought some area rugs and a few other furnishings, and, of course, a basket



containing a baby, and a bathinette. All this was tied onto or placed inside a Chevrolet bearing a Kentucky license plate. This attracted the attention of people leaving the hotel for a night on the town. They promptly surrounded the car, acting as if we were visitors from outer space. "Just imagine," one said, "from Kentucky and entering Columbia University." A lady in the elevator peered into Nancy's basket and asked, "Is she real?"

Our New York apartment was by no means luxurious, but it was ok for us at that stage. After all, our neighbors had apartments just like ours. They were better neighbors than those of most New York City dwellers because all were away from their permanent homes and needed to find most of their social life there. There were five children under five years of age in the building; Nancy (seven weeks old when we arrived) was the youngest. One of the fathers was a photography buff and took some very good pictures of Nancy and the other children. Since we were all connected with the University, we were fairly homogeneous. The one person in New York City whom we already knew (Doris English, Dean Taylor's former secretary from Lexington) lived with her husband immediately behind us on the same floor. However, we didn't know this until one day when I was putting my garbage on the dumbwaiter. There she was on the other side of the dumbwaiter doing the same thing!!

Other friends from the building came through when we especially needed their help. We'd had word from Plainfield that Florence and Ret, Sherman's sisters, and Marie and Margaret, his nieces, plus their children, Jack and Bob, who were about two at the time, were coming to visit us. At the last minute they decided that they needed a man to accompany them. They recruited Marie's brother-in-law, Wilbur Moon. They arrived about 2:00 A.M. (We hadn't expected them that night, and Sherman was gone on a school survey up the Hudson.) The building was locked for the night. Margaret shouted to me to come and let them in but I never heard her. Eventually one of the tenants, arriving home after a late movie, produced a key and let them in.

How to put them to bed? Five adults and two toddlers and only three cots for me and them. I really don't remember how we made it for the rest of the night. However, the next day, a Friday, our plight became known to the neighbors. One brought a folding cot that she had brought from home for such emergencies, and a couple from Pennsylvania, who were leaving for the weekend, lent us their whole apartment. Sherman got home the next day and somehow we stretched the two apartments to accommodate the crowd...but not comfortably. The borrowed apartment had to be surrendered on Sunday, and somehow we made it through the night. The company left for Plainfield and their own good beds on Monday.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

#### QUERY

Robert Hendricks, R. 2, Scio, OH 43988, is interested in corresponding with anyone with information on the Hendricks family of Hendricks County.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

#### IN MEMORIUM

One of the dearest and most loved member of our society left us, December 28th when Will Templin died at the age of 100. He had recently celebrated that milestone and the throngs of friends and relatives who surrounded him that day was evidence of

how much he was loved and revered.

He was a dedicated member of our society and the beautiful and interesting artifacts that he used to fill our display table with added so much to our meetings and the bouquets of his own home grown flowers which he brought was a beautiful reflection of his long life.

He can never be replaced and we grieve with Harold and Dorothy and their family for their loss is ours.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

#### GOODBY TO THE OLD DANVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH BUILDING

The old Baptist Church building on North Wayne street in Danville has passed from the scene. Like many old, historic buildings it had fallen into disrepair, and had sat empty for so long, that any attempt to rescue it from the wrecking ball would have taken more time, effort and money than any individual or group could muster.

Still, the old church was a silent reminder of our past, and despite the toll that time, the elements, and vandalism had taken, it still retained a quiet dignity. Nestled in tall shade trees (also victims of "progress"), it reminded us of a time when a House of God was a simple structure, not an exercise in architectural eccentricities.

If the old Baptist Church could not be saved, it should at least be remembered. Anyone having information on its history, or photographs of the building when it was still in use, please contact Betty Bartley at the Danville Library. The information will be used to write a proper obituary for the building, to be published in the next issue of the Bulletin.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

#### PRAIRIE FARMER DIRECTORY STILL AVAILABLE

There are still some copies left of the reprint of the 1920 Prairie Farmer's Directory. The member's price is \$14.00 plus tax. They can be ordered from:

1920 Prairie Farmer's Guide  
c/o L. K. Hughes  
85 Cartersburg Rd.  
Danville, IN 46122

Make checks payable to: Hendricks County Historical Society. Add \$1.00 for postage and handling if you wish the book mailed to you, or include your phone number along with your name and address, and you can arrange to pick the book up at the Danville or Plainfield Library. (NOTE: We will have some of the books available for sale at the February meeting.)

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

#### MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

-- The following membership list is published as a service to our members. If there are any additions or corrections, please let us know, and they will be published in the next issue.

--Names marked with an asterisk (\*) are charter members of the Hendricks County Society.



Debbie Abbott  
R. 1 Box 185-C 15  
Pittsboro, IN 46167

Mozella Alexander  
Lizton, IN 46169

Mary F. Allred  
40897 Cavalier Drive  
Hement, CA 92343

Nancy E. Almond  
812 Davison Ave.  
Muscle Shoals, AL 35661

John E. & Mary Anderson  
R. 1, Box 19  
Clayton, IN 46118

Kathryn L. Armstrong  
Marquette Manor #5405  
8140 Township Line Rd.  
Indianapolis, IN 46260

Lester F. Arnold  
803 N. Pierce, Sp #11  
Wenatchee, WA 98801

Margaret Arnold  
R. 3 Box 366  
Clayton, IN 46118

Gene Ayres  
314 W. Main  
Box 216  
Pittsboro, IN 46167

Maxine A. Ayres  
29237 Pinehurst  
Roseville, MI 48066

\*Margaret Baker  
9 Round Hill Rd.  
Danville, IN 46122

Jeffrey & Patricia Baldwin  
P. O. Box 63  
Danville, IN 46122

Robert H. Bales  
P. O. Box 34  
Danville, IN 46122

Lovell Barnett  
722 Karyn Dr.  
Plainfield, IN 46168

Wendell Barrett  
5000 N. Pennsylvania Apt. 2  
Indianapolis, IN 46205

Betty Jo Bartley  
R. 6 Box 213  
Danville, IN 46122

\*Jewell Bell  
212 E. Rd. 200 N  
Danville, IN 46122

Mary M. Bell  
165 East St.  
Danville, IN 46122

Donna Blact  
21632 East Highbluff Rd.  
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

Leona Blair  
R. 5 Box 100  
Danville, IN 46122

Judge Jeffrey V. Boles  
407 E. Mill  
Danville, IN 46122

Ralph V. Boles  
430 E. Mill St.  
Danville, IN 46122

Beulah Bowen  
97 S. Indiana  
Danville, IN 46122

Dortha Bowman  
Box 13  
Pittsboro, IN 46167

Melvin & Barbara Bramblett  
R. 1 Box 106 A  
Lizton, IN 46149

Mary E. Bray  
R. 1 Box 309  
Pittsboro, IN 46167

Dean Broyles  
R. 1 Box 167  
Pittsboro, IN 46167

Louise Broyles  
Box 103  
Pittsboro, IN 46167

Elizabeth Bryant  
413 1/2 E. Broadway  
Danville, IN 46122

Mary E. Bunn  
R. 1 Box 199  
North Salem, IN 46165

Carroll W. Burdsall  
R. 1 Box 174  
Stilesville, IN 46180

Clarice Burdsall  
R. 1 Box 175  
Stilesville, IN 46180

Mary E. Burns  
646 Redbud Lane  
Plainfield, IN 46168

Robert & Debbie Burns  
R. 1 Box 84  
Coatesville, IN 46121

Richard Burrows  
596 N. Washington  
Danville, IN 46122

James R. Call  
R. 1 Box 120  
Danville, IN 46122

Mary E. Canganelli  
75 S. Grandview  
Dubuque, IA 52001

L. Robert & Martha J. Carter  
3 S. Drive  
Brownsburg, IN 46112

Susan Miller Carter  
517 E. Main  
Plainfield, IN 46168

Robert S. & Eloise Castetter  
312 Raines St.  
Plainfield, IN 46168

Jerry & Vyanne Chandler  
P. O. Box 224  
Stilesville, IN 46180

Sue Christian  
R. 1 Box 207  
Clayton, IN 46118

Garnet Christie  
52 N. Cross St.  
Danville, IN 46122

Irene Clark  
Stilesville, IN 46180

Margery Clay  
618 W. Mill  
Danville, IN 46122

Geneva Cook  
R. 1 Box 397  
Clayton, IN 46118

Mary E. Cooper  
4595 Thurman Dr. So-Hi  
Kingman, AZ 86401

Tom & Linda Cowley  
Box 32  
Pittsboro, IN 46167

Grace Cox  
494 W. Clinton  
Danville, IN 46122

Maxine Cox  
182 E. Marion  
Danville, IN 46122

Patricia Cox  
310 Urban  
Danville, IN 46122

Thad Cramer II  
P. O. Box 205  
Danville, IN 46122

Lois Crayton  
440 Heritage Dr.  
Danville, IN 46122

\*Virginia Cummings  
404 S. School St.  
Brownsburg, IN 46112

Geneva Dillon  
P. O. Box 144  
Coatesville, IN 46121

Charles & Ruth Dinsmore  
10936 E. Apache Trail Space 196  
Apache Junction, AZ 85220

Robert M. Donovan  
Box 366  
Danville, IN 46122

Thelma Duncan  
101 First St.  
Greencastle, IN 46135

John M. Durham  
7043 Joan D'Arc Ave.  
Scottsdale, AZ 85254

Marian B. Edmondson  
R. 2 Box 415  
Clayton, IN 46118

Marian C. Edmondson  
R. 6 Box 57  
Danville, IN 46122

Doratheia Edwards  
292 W. Harrison  
P. O. Box 326  
Mooresville, IN 46158

June Edwards  
2 Woodland Place  
Danville, IN 46122

Bea Ellis  
Box 162  
Lizton, IN 46149

Fay Elmore  
Clayton, IN 46118



Helen Elmore  
120 E. North St.  
Danville, IN 46122

Mildred Elson  
360 Heritage Dr.  
Danville, IN 46122

Mr. & Mrs. Lester English  
10303 E. Rd. 730 N  
Brownsburg, IN 46112

\*Ondah Evans  
Box 103  
Pittsboro, IN 46167

Martha Every-Clayton  
210 W. Main  
Danville, IN 46122

\*Frances Fisher  
R. 1 Box 249 A  
Pittsboro, IN 46167

Alice Jean Fullen  
541 S. Center  
Plainfield, IN 46163

\*John Canbold Jr.  
R. 2  
Coatesville, IN 46121

Mildred Hadley  
Box 240  
Linton, IN 46149

David A. Hall  
Pittsboro, IN 46167

Ruth Hall  
Box 56  
Linton, IN 46149

Irma Harger  
20 Clinton Ct.  
Danville, IN 46122

Rebecca Hardin  
133 Carter St.  
Boresville, IN 46153

George R. Harvey  
1744 Beeler Ave.  
Speedway City, IN 46224

Wanda L. Nash  
17707 Eagletown Rd.  
Westfield, IN 46074

Elma Haworth  
423 N. Washington  
Danville, IN 46122

Willard Weiss  
7777 N. Alton Ave.  
Indianapolis, IN 46208

Debbie Higgins  
R. 2 Box 249  
Danville, IN 46122

Gloria Higgins  
R. 2 Box 249  
Danville, IN 46122

Marilyn Fisher Hill  
1106 McHenry  
Urbana, IL 61801

Delta Hodson  
Box 144  
Ams, IN 46103

Cookie (Ruth) Holmes  
R. 1 Box 111  
Coatesville, IN 46121

Howard Hopkins  
1020 Celia Lane  
Lexington, KY 40504

William E. & Marie Hopkins  
1634 Forest Dr.  
Plainfield, IN 46163

Ethelene Horn  
P. O. Box 102  
Ams, IN 46103

Edward E. Horton  
4610 Farnsworth St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46241

\*Mr. & Mrs. Scott F. Mosier, Jr.  
9465 Lafayette Rd.  
Indianapolis, IN 46273

Andrew Houk  
141 W. Main  
Jamestown, IN 46147

Gladys Hovernale  
507 Raintree Dr.  
Danville, IN 46122

John M. Howard  
16 Northview Dr.  
Danville, IN 46122

Doris Hubble  
R. 1 Box 259  
Rainbridge, IN 46105

\*Floyd & Margaret Hufford  
33 W. College  
Brownsburg, IN 46112

Libbe Hughes  
65 Cartersburg Rd.  
Danville, IN 46122

Alton J. Huntsman  
22 Warren Lane  
Brownsburg, IN 46112

Jack Johnson  
R. 2 Box 47  
Danville, IN 46122

Bernice Joseph  
497 Meadow Drive  
Danville, IN 46122

Naomi Joseph  
497 Meadow Drive  
Danville, IN 46122

\*Randall & Virginia Joseph  
R. 2 Box 172  
Danville, IN 46122

Meredith & Edna Keeney  
R. 1 Box 160  
Linton, IN 46149

Donald & Violet Keller  
496 E. Columbia  
Danville, IN 46122

Ann Kelley  
5390 E. Rd. 800 N  
Brownsburg, IN 46112

Dorothy Kelley  
R. 1 Box 217  
Pittsboro, IN 46167

\*Carolyn Kellum  
1435 Stanley Rd.  
Plainfield, IN 46163

Doris Kennedy  
209 N. Indiana  
Danville, IN 46122

Mary Kirk  
195 Old North Salem Rd.  
Danville, IN 46122

Brenda Kunish  
1344 Airport Rd.  
Muskegon, MI 49444

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Land  
Pittsboro, IN 46167

J. Robert Leak  
R. 1 Box 123 A  
Linton, IN 46149

Neona Milhon Lewis  
256 E. Columbia  
Danville, IN 46122

Geraldine Lilly  
26 Taylor Ct.  
Danville, IN 46122

Carole Loehrke  
3412 Walnut  
Munster, IN 46321

Mary F. Long  
2721 Allen Ave.  
Indianapolis, IN 46203

Elizabeth Lord  
5917 Gareau Dr.  
North Olmsted, OH 44070

Edith Low  
R. 1 Box 17-A  
Clayton, IN 46118

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Lyden  
(no address given)

Neva Barber Lydiard  
R. 1 So-Ex 2151  
Cascade, MT 59421

\*Darlene Lynch  
1204 N. Main  
Monticello, IN 47960

Mary B. McCollum  
R. 1 Box 45  
Clayton, IN 46118

Rosemary McDowell  
4 Brenda Ct.  
Danville, IN 46122

Henry & Josephine McFerran  
R. 1 Box 92  
Coatesville, IN 46121

Virginia L. McGriffin  
933 Ardsley Dr.  
Indianapolis, IN 46234

William & Maudie McNeff  
R. 2  
Danville, IN 46122

Mike McVey  
R. 1 Box 172-H  
Pittsboro, IN 46167

Ellia Marsh  
R. 1 Box 34  
Pittsboro, IN 46167

Audrey Martin  
5 Fairlane East  
Danville, IN 46122

Mary Ann Miles  
202 S. Kentucky  
Danville, IN 46122

Ed Miller  
214 W. Main  
Box 162  
Pittsboro, IN 46167

\*John C. & Ida Mae Miller  
525 E. Main  
Plainfield, IN 46168



Julia Dillon Miller  
Chicago Village Trail Apt. 60  
New Carlisle, IN 46552

Lillian Miller  
R. 1 Box 178  
Clayton, IN 46118

Geneva Mitchell  
R. 1  
Union City, TN 38261

Jean Mitchell  
R. 2 Box 6  
Clayton, IN 46118

Ida F. Modglin  
R. 1 Box 178  
North Salem, IN 46165

Mary Ann Moore  
310 S. Jefferson  
Brownsburg, IN 46112

Kenneth L. Morrow  
R. 1 Box 237 U  
Pittsboro, IN 46167

E. Elwood Nichols  
R. 1 Box 237  
Angola, IN 46703

Rosaleen Nicholson  
12 Northview Dr.  
Danville, IN 46122

Maynard Noland  
210 Pearl St.  
North Salem, IN 46165

Florence Obenchain  
P. O. Box 128  
Pittsboro, IN 46167

Mrs. John O'Brien  
163 S. Bear Lake Rd.  
North Muskegon, MI 49445

Fred Osborn  
147 Eastern Ave.  
Plainfield, IN 46168

Maxine Osborn  
73 E. Broadway  
Danville, IN 46122

Joan Ott  
R. 1 Box 104  
North Salem, IN 46165

Gayle M. Overton  
6820 Daisy Lane  
Indianapolis, IN 46224

Rodney & Amanda Page  
184 N. Washington  
Danville, IN 46122

Belva Parker  
P. O. Box 206  
516 S. Kansas Ave.  
Cherokee, OK 73728

Edgar Parker  
R. 1 Box 322  
Pittsboro, IN 46167

Fern Parker  
P. O. Box 185  
Stilesville, IN 46180

Lois Parker  
202 W. Marion  
Danville, IN 46122

Mr. & Mrs. John Parsons  
R. 1 Box 463  
Clayton, IN 46118

J. Charles Pike  
6709 Grattan Lane  
Indianapolis, IN 46220

Judith Pingle  
R. 1 Box 153  
Pittsboro, IN 46167

Howard Pritchard  
1033 N. Indiana Rd.  
Mooresville, IN 46158

\*Ruth Mitchell Pritchard  
R. 1 Box 454  
Clayton, IN 46118

Mr. & Mrs. Donald Quick  
R. 6 Box 144  
Danville, IN 46122

Kathryn Ramp  
Box 150 A  
Pittsboro, IN 46167

Jane Randall  
7020 E. 1000 N  
Brownsburg, IN 46112

Edna Ramsey  
P. O. Box 24  
Plainfield, IN 46168

Ananda Hess Rebllich  
7023 Dogwood Rd.  
Baltimore, MD 21207

Virginia Reklis  
454 W. Main  
Danville, IN 46122

James Robbins  
7320 E. 1000 N  
Brownsburg, IN 46112

Mr. & Mrs. Donald Roberts  
2712 W. Berwyn Rd.  
Muncie, IN 47304

Joan L. Robinson  
3531 Barr  
Garden Grove, CA 92641

Ruth Rogers  
R. 6 Box 86  
Danville, IN 46122

Dr. & Mrs. Malcolm Scannhorn  
Box 183  
Pittsboro, IN 46167

Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Scannhorn  
Box 327  
Pittsboro, IN 46167

Margaret Searce  
625 W. Main  
Danville, IN 46122

Mrs. J. Robert Scott  
209 E. Madison Ave.  
Chrisman, IL 61924

Bonnie W. Schenck  
R. 1 Box 266  
Pittsboro, IN 46167

Marjorie A. Schulmeister  
905 W. Clinton  
Danville, IN 46122

Alison Seger  
312 N. Jefferson  
Danville, IN 46122

Claire J. Sellars  
c/o Millers Merry Manor, Inc.  
259 W. Harrison  
Mooresville, IN 46158

Ina Shaw  
c/o Mrs. Phillip Shaw  
6802 N. 37th Ave.  
Phoenix, AZ 85019

Alma Shockley  
R. 3 Box 34  
Danville, IN 46122

Mrs. Willard Sloyer  
903 Park Lane  
Harrisonville, MO 64701

\*Jay H. Small  
1169 N. Bolton  
Indianapolis, IN 46219

Margaret A. Small  
105 S. Wilmore Rd.  
Washington, IL 61571

Mr. & Mrs. W. W. Smitherman  
R. 1 Box 123  
Coatesville, IN 46121

Veva Spear  
208 Wabash  
Plainfield, IN 46168

Clifford B. Spears  
1103 Forest Drive West  
Brownsburg, IN 46112

Margaret Spoon  
P. O. Box 309  
Pittsboro, IN 46167

Owen S. Stamper  
9 Todd Terrace  
Danville, IN 46122

Clarice Stanley  
413 E. Broadway  
Danville, IN 46122

Donald Stanley  
3932 Indiana Rd.  
Plainfield, IN 46168

Carolyn Stultz  
R. 2 Box 139  
Danville, IN 46122

Suzie Sturgeon  
1509 E. Richland  
Bloomington, IN 47401

Churchel L. Swann  
637 Lawndale Dr.  
Plainfield, IN 46168

Edgar & Cassie Swann  
275 Vine St.  
Plainfield, IN 46168

\*Harold & Dorothy Templin  
R. 2 Box 86  
Danville, IN 46122

Artie Thatcher  
R. 1 Box 22  
Pittsboro, IN 46167

Sherelene Thompson  
258 Noice Dr.  
Salinas, CA 93905

Marjorie Thurber  
8801 Madison Ave. Apt. 207 C  
Indianapolis, IN 46227

Richard Timmerman  
R. 1 Box 27 T  
Pittsboro, IN 46167

Mildred Todd  
2021 Dodge Ave.  
Ft. Wayne, IN 46805



Harlan Trunk  
Pittsboro, IN 46167

Lottie Van Hook  
2350 Ave. B  
Beaumont, TX 77701

Dona E. Wade  
9446 W. 59th St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46254

Helen Walker  
R. 1 Box 249  
Clayton, IN 46118

Ernestine Wallace  
1555 N. Main  
Frankfort, IN 46041

Betty Dillon Watts  
R. 1 Box 318  
Pittsboro, IN 46167

\*Blanche M. Wean  
249 S. Wayne  
Danville, IN 46122

Ellis & Martha Weaver  
R. 1 Box 238  
Pittsboro, IN 46167

Mr. & Mrs. Everett Weaver  
32 N. Green St.  
Brownsburg, IN 46112

Vici Weaver  
P. O. Box 150  
Danville, IN 46122

Calvin & Alma Wells  
R. 1 Box 309  
Clayton, IN 46118

Pauline Wheeler  
1615 Tarpon Ave.  
Plainfield, IN 46168

Richard & Jody Whicker  
R. 6 Box 161  
Danville, IN 46122

Gail E. Whitton  
8808 North Bank Dr.  
Ventura, CA 93004

Evelyn Whitworth  
1117 Doart Ave.  
Indianapolis, IN 46201

Paul Williamson  
220 S. Washington  
Danville, IN 46122

Bulah Jones Wilson  
9073 Rockville Rd.  
Indianapolis, IN 46234

Irene Wilson  
303 S. Mill  
Plainfield, IN 46168

Mad A. Wilson, M.D.  
2455 River Rd.  
Marion, IN 46952

\*Mary Jannette Winklemann  
P. O. Box 308  
Pittsboro, IN 46167

Marilyn Carter Wood  
16 W. King St.  
Sullivan, IN 46191

Janet Woodrum  
R. 1 Box 28  
Linton, IN 46149

Marian Worrell  
R. 3, Box 19  
Danville, IN 46122

Lori Wynn  
198 E. Columbia  
Danville, IN 46122

Patrick Wynne, Jr.  
12004 W. 21st St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46234

## 1878 ATLAS REPRINTED

The Hendricks County Historical Society is sponsoring the sale of a special reprint of the 1878 ILLUSTRATED HISTORICAL ATLAS OF HENDRICKS COUNTY.

The 55 page paperbound book is a reproduction of the original, reduced in size to 11" x 14" for easier handling.

The Atlas features:

- a general history of the county
- township histories
- personal histories
- township maps, indicating names of landowners and number of acres owned
- plat maps of county towns and villages
- portraits of some early settlers and views of some of the county farms and landmarks

Member's price for the Atlas is \$14.00 (tax included). The book will be published in early March 1986. Orders will be taken through March 1, 1986.

### ORDER BLANK FOR 1878 ATLAS

I would like to order \_\_\_\_\_ books at the members's price of \$14.00 (tax included).

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to be notified when the books arrive and will pick up my copy at the Danville or Plainfield Library.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to have my book mailed directly to me. I am enclosing \$1.00 postage and handling for each book ordered.

\*\*\*\*MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

\*\*\*\*MAIL YOUR CHECK AND THIS FORM TO: 1878 ATLAS  
c/o L. E. HUGHES  
85 Cartersburg Rd.  
Danville, IN 46122

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \_\_\_\_\_



The Hendricks County Historical Society is sponsoring the sale of a special report of the late HARRISON T. HARRISON, ATLAS OF HENDRICKS COUNTY.

The 35 page report, which is a reproduction of the original, is bound in a leather binding, 10" x 12" for pocket carrying. It is a valuable work.

The Atlas contains:

- a general history of the county
- geographical statistics
- general statistics
- township map, indicating names of townships
- location of and number of cities and towns
- list of county towns and villages with their population of 1890, with names and streets and a list of names of residents of each town and village, including names of residents of each township.

The price for the Atlas is \$14.00 (tax included). The book will be mailed to you upon receipt of the enclosed \$14.00.

ORDER SLIP FOR THIS ATLAS

I would like to order \_\_\_\_\_ copies of the Hendricks County Historical Society's Atlas of Hendricks County, Indiana, at the price of \$14.00 per copy (tax included).

I would like to be notified when the books arrive and I will pick up my copy at the Hendricks County Historical Society.

I would like to have my book mailed directly to me, enclosing \$14.00 per copy and handling fee each book ordered.

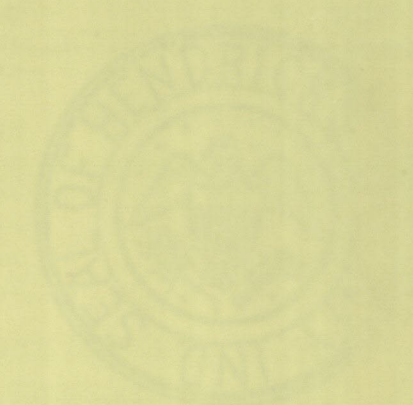
HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, 100 N. 10th St., Terre Haute, Ind. 47601.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_  
 STATE \_\_\_\_\_  
 ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_

# HENDRICKS COUNTY

## HISTORY 1890-1900

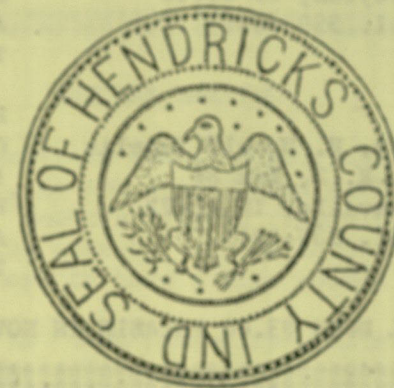


HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
 100 N. 10th St.  
 Terre Haute, Ind. 47601



# HENDRICKS COUNTY

## HISTORY BULLETIN



VOLUME XVII NUMBER II

May 1986

PUBLISHED BY

THE HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DANVILLE, INDIANA

HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
BOX 123  
DANVILLE, IN 46122

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U. S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
DANVILLE, IN  
PERMIT #303

175  
Plainfield Public Library  
Historical Div.  
1120 Stafford Road  
Plainfield, IN 46168



HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

ORGANIZED 1967

OFFICERS 1986

PRESIDENT

Betty Bartley  
R R 6, Box 213  
Danville, IN 46122  
Tel. 745-2828

VICE PRESIDENT

Miss Libbe Hughes  
85 Cartersburg Road  
Danville, IN 46122  
Tel. 745-4833

SECRETARY

Miss Jewell Bell  
212 East Road 200 N  
Danville, IN 46122  
Tel. 745-4055

TREASURER

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

HISTORIAN

Mrs. H. Harold Templin  
R. R. 2, Box 86  
Danville, IN 46122  
Tel. 539-4311

PUBLICITY

Miss Jewell Bell  
212 East Road 200 N  
Danville, IN 46122  
Tel. 745-4055

GENEALOGISTS

Miss Grace Cox  
494 West Clinton St.  
Danville, IN 46122  
Tel. 745-2552

Mrs. Roy Pritchard  
R. R. 1, Box 454  
Clayton, IN 46118  
Tel. 539-6890

HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS

Danville Public Library  
101 S. Indiana  
Danville, IN 46122  
Attention: Betty Bartley  
Tel. 745-2604

Mrs. Roy Fisher  
Pittsboro, IN 46167  
Tel. 892-4780

Mrs. H. Harold Templin  
R. R. 2, Box 86  
Danville, IN 46122  
Tel. 539-4311

Plainfield Public Library  
Guilford Twp. Historical Collectio  
1120 Stafford Road  
Plainfield, IN 46168  
Attention: Susan Miller Carter  
Tel. 839-6602

ANNUAL DUES \$3.00 PAYABLE IN NOVEMBER

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

The Hendricks County Historical Bulletin is published quarterly in February, May, August and November. It is distributed without charge to members of the Society and to Hendricks County School Libraries. Individual copies of \$2.00. Communications concerning back copies or individual copies should be addressed to our secretary. Contributions or suggestions to The Bulletin should be mailed to the editor.

Margaret Baker  
(Mrs. C. Rawleigh Baker)  
9 Round Hill Road  
Danville, IN 46122  
Tel. 745-2115

HISTORIANS EXPLAIN THE PAST AND ECONOMISTS PREDICT THE FUTURE.  
THUS, ONLY THE PRESENT IS CONFUSING.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

Greetings from the President:

I hope that by the time the May meeting rolls around the weather will be somewhat improved. I know that April showers bring May flowers, but what does April snow bring?

An update and list of corrections for our membership list appears in this issue. Please let us know if there are any further corrections needed. Hopefully, the only thing we will need to add to the next Bulletin is the names of more new members!

The program for our May meeting should be an educational experience for all of us. Many of us did not develop our interest in local history until we were out of school. Imagine how much these third graders will have learned by the time they are grown. Lorrie Bohlen is to be commended for sparking an interest in her pupils that can become a lifetime of learning.

See you at the meeting!

Betty

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

THE MAY MEETING

The May Meeting of the Hendricks County Historical Society will be held Sunday, May 4, 1986, at 2 P.M., at the Avon United Methodist Church. The Church is located just west of Avon. Members driving from either direction will have to take "New U.S. 36" to get to the church. Access to the church driveway across old U.S. 36 is provided. We hope to have a sign posted at the turn-off.

The topic of the Meeting is "Avon Community--Yesterday and Today", as taught to the third-graders at Avon Upper Elementary. The following article was provided by Lorrie Bohlen, who helped to organize the course and will be the speaker at our meeting, along with five of her pupils.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

AVON HISTORY PRESENTATION

The Avon Schools are teaching the history of their community in the third grade of the Avon Upper Elementary. A booklet was printed for the students that highlights the timeline of the Avon community. Subjects that are included are the first Indians, the National Road, Haunted Bridge, the Interurban, and a brief history of the Avon Schools and its community.

A slide presentation was compiled that shows some of the present day sights in Avon, as well as those places that have historical significance. In addition to the slides are two paintings that have been donated to the school system. The subjects of the paintings are the Avon school built in 1884 and a picture of an interurban which was a common sight in the Avon Community from 1907 to 1930.

The highlight of the history unit this school year has been the making of an Avon Time-line Quilt. Each student chose his or her own topic and illustrated it. Using fabric crayons, their print was ironed onto a fabric square. The squares



were put in order of historical significance which explains why it is called a time-line quilt.

Five of the students and Mrs. Bohlen will be presenting the program at our meeting. Also on display will be the paintings by Mrs. Bohlen and the Avon Time-line Quilt.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

#### FEBRUARY MEETING

Approximately 50 members and guests registered for the February meeting held at the Savings and Loan Building, Danville. Following devotions by Margaret Baker, Betty Bartley, our new president conducted the business meeting. In her talk about the Museum, Dorothy Kelley reported work on the upper floor would start soon. This was definitely OLD business, for she has been working on that project for months. Libbe Hughes reported on the progress of sales of the PRAIRIE FARMER 1920 DIRECTORY. We also have reprints and resizing of the 1878 HENDRICKS COUNTY ATLAS.

Our speaker was Mr. Jay Small of Indianapolis who gave a most interesting talk on HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL BOOKS, PAPERS AND POST CARDS and his display of rare books and picture post cards of Hendricks County were memory joggers for the older citizens and a curiosity for the younger ones.

Following the program, the ladies of Center Township served refreshments and with that the HCMS got off to a fine start for the year.

#### HCHS NEW MEMBERS AS OF APRIL 1986

Doris Anderson  
R. 1, Box 93  
Wyaconda, MO 63474

John H. Battershell  
502 East Road 200 South  
Danville, IN 46122

Lorrie Bohlen  
164 South 450 East Rd.  
Danville, IN 46122

Robert A. Brown  
P. O. Box 46  
Prairie Creek, IN 47869

Mrs. Vernadine G. Collins  
1800 5th Ave.  
Grinnell, IA 50112

Jack C. Cooper  
3256 South Six Points Rd.  
Indianapolis, IN 46231

Michael B. & Maralee H. Edmondson  
R. R. 2, Box 416  
Clayton, IN 46118

Dr. William A. Edwards, M.D.  
33 Ginseng Trail  
Danville, IN 46122

Mrs. Ruth E. Gibbs  
1947 Avon Rd.  
Plainfield, IN 46168

William H. Gibbs  
6216 Alamo St.  
Springfield, VA 22150

Fred K. Hahn  
11124 S. Bremer Rd.  
Canby, OR 97013

Bernice Jones  
12 Fairfield  
Brownsburg, IN 46112

#### NEW MEMBERS (CONTINUED)

Jeff Martin  
360 Urban St.  
Danville, IN 46122

Carole Ruse  
5510 E. 700 N.  
Brownsburg, IN 46112

Stanley M. Shartle  
R. R. 1, Box 33  
Stilesville, IN 46180

Marcia Smith  
3213 Patton Dr.  
Indianapolis, IN 46224

Jewell N. Thompson  
R. R. 3, Box 24  
Danville, IN 46122

Mark E. Thompson  
One E. Scott #1703  
Chicago, IL 60610

Dean & Mary Thurnall  
P. O. Box 85  
Danville, IN 46122

(The following names should have been indicated as charter members (\*) on the previous list:

Gene Ayres  
Mr. & Mrs. Lester English  
Ruth Hall  
Claire Sellars  
Ina Shaw  
O. S. Stamper

(The following names were unintentionally omitted from the previous list--our apologies to these members.)

Michael H. O'Haver  
37 S. Bear Lake Rd.  
N. Muskegan, MI 49445  
Robert E. Reading  
P. O. Box 62  
Jamestown, IN 46147

Mary Lois Stratton  
P. O. Box 41  
Clayton, IN 46118

\*Leona Stuart  
190 W. Columbia  
Danville, IN 46122

Geraldine Scott  
1 Fairlane East  
Danville, IN 46122

Connie Williams (Mrs. Harold)  
8612 W. 10th St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46234

(The following errors in addresses were found in the previous list)

Mozella Alexander  
Lizton, IN 46149  
Kathryn Ramp  
R. 1, Box 150A  
Pittsboro, IN 46167

Donna Black  
21632 East Highbluff Rd.  
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

(We have had one change of address since the last list)  
Rodney & Amanda Page  
c/o Louise Page  
Craig Hill Road  
Springfield, VT 05156



(This article on the rise and demise of the interurban was written by Lorrie Bohlen for use in her community study booklet.)

By 1902 the long-distance transmission of power was so much improved that electric railway service was extending longer distances. Soon the equipment was both heavier and faster. A major investment boom in the interurban industry came in the same years in which many bankers were turning deaf ears to the financial requests of W. C. Durant and Henry Ford.

Between 1901 and 1908 more than 9,000 miles of interurban lines were built in the country and hundreds of individual local companies were dreaming of construction routes which would steal local passenger traffic away from the railroads. Some lines carried baggage, mail, express, and freight.

William Merritt, a farmer all his life, remembers the interurbans crossing the tracks in Avon. "They sped along at a 65 mile an hour clip and its warning horn was not as loud as a train."

The greater frequency of service, and often a higher average speed, gave the electric interurban a real advantage over much of the local passenger or branch line railroad service. Since the interurbans had a faster rate of acceleration it was easier for them to have more frequent scheduled stops than was true of the steam railroad. The top year for electric interurban mileage was 1916 when 15,580 miles were in operation.

Two-thirds of the total mileage was located in the 6 northern and eastern states of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania and New York. Ohio, with 2,798 miles of route, was easily first in interurban mileage. Although a poor second with 1,825 miles, Indiana boasted a network which made it the most thoroughly covered of any state. More than 20 different companies gave service to every corner of Indiana, with thirteen different routes radiating out of Indianapolis. All Hoosier towns of over 5,000 people were served by the interurban except for three-Bloomington, Madison, and Vincennes.

By World War I the automobile was taking away some business, although a few brave prophets still refused to take the automobile seriously. The pioneer Hoosier interurban promoter, Charles L. Henry, saw the car as a passing fad and in a 1916 speech claimed: "The fad feature of automobile riding will gradually wear off, and the time will soon be here when a very large part of the people will cease to think of automobile rides..."

Increasing private auto use and new intercity bus routes in the twenties definitely caused higher operating ratios and frequent deficits for many interurban companies. More than 4,000 miles of line were abandoned by 1929, and another 5,000 miles had been given up by 1934. One interurban line in Indiana in the depression thirties was reduced to paying its workers partly with fare tokens.

The lines that passed through Danville was abandoned on October 31, 1930. It was part of the Terre-Haute, Indianapolis, and Eastern Traction Company, which was bought by the Public Service Company of Indiana on May 26, 1931. A map is enclosed showing the abandonment of the interurban lines with this company.

By the interurban as such was dead. The passenger traffic which the interurban for a few years had taken over from the steam railroads had in turn been largely lost to the private automobile. Lines and interurban cars were scrapped and are rarely seen except in museums or remodeled versions which are used for tourists to reminisce over the "good old days".

Information for this part of the article is taken from the book, Life and Decline of the American Railroad by John Stover. "The New Competition" p. 130-133. (1970) Oxford University Press, New York.

(The following history of Avon was taken from an article in the December 30, 1897 issue of the Republican. It was written by the Avon correspondent, whose initials were 'S.T.H'.)

#### AVON

##### AN INTERESTING HISTORY OF THE CAPITAL OF WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP

...The first settlement here was about the year 1830. A settlement soon sprang up and in 1833 Absalom Payne...was appointed postmaster of Hampton post office with a weekly mail carried horseback along the Rockville road. In a few years, Mr. Payne tired of the empty honor, and the office passed to Dr. Malone...and a little later to W. T. Ross.... Mr. Ross soon became tired of the office, and no one else wanting to be bothered with it, it was allowed to die and Hampton was no more.

In 1852 O. J. Huron, newly married and living in a cabin adjoining Weasley chapel church yard, was persuaded to accept a commission as postmaster of White Lick P.O. Just three months satisfied Mr. Huron and White Lick died and was buried by Hampton. That left us without either town or post office.

Along in the fifties J. M. Smoot began making visits here as a pack peddler. Soon he added a horse and wagon and came weekly, and after a time, about 1858, leased ground and built a small room in the corner of J. H. Ross' yard. Ross was a strong Republican, and it was not long until Smoot moved his store to Democratic ground on Uncle John Dickerson's land on the opposite corner. Wishing to buy a lot, and failing to find one for sale at the east side, he sought elsewhere, and Nov. 1, 1862, R. J. Barker deeded him a half acre one mile west. The following winter he moved his store on log sleds to his own lot where it still stands, the little ware room adjoining R. M. Bartley's store.

In '68 a few of our citizens sent a petition to Washington for a post office, but the petition was headed by Mr. Smoot, and the department did the rest. Mr. Bartley was appointed to preside over an office with the picturesque name "Smootsdell", and under a commission dated April 28, 1868 opened a third post office. D. S. Barker carried the mail twice a week on horseback from Plainfield for twelve dollars a year. The name, Smootsdell, clung, until the I. & St. L. railroad was completed about '70 when the company established a flag station at the water tank a half mile west and named it Avon.



It was not long until the post office followed suit and the name Smootsdell was laid away along side Hampton and White Lick. Soon after the railroad was built the Barker brothers put a small store at the crossing of the Plainfield road and followed by building a station and store combined. The company put in a telegraph office and Avon boomed.

But soon the telegraph office was moved three-fourths of a mile east, and in a little while the station followed and trains stopped in the middle of a farm for passengers, and patrons carried trunks down the track till they got tired, then changed hands and carried again. They complained, they grumbled, and finally they begged that the station be returned to the west side. The people won, and for years the station and the telegraph office were almost a mile apart. In '91 private citizens bought a little yellow dwelling house and moved it to the crossing a mile east of the station and the company moved its telegraph office into this building. The old look of sadness came to the west-siders' face. The company saw the look and smiled, then moved their station to the yellow dwelling also, where it remained till three years ago when with a generous help from the east side citizens, the present neat structure was erected, almost the first expense of the company for its patrons here.

....The first school was organized very soon after the first settlement, and soon a frame school house always known as "Center", was built by volunteers from among its patrons...(it) was used until '58 when the district had grown until there were about ninety children enumerated. In that year Clark Blair, who was township trustee, made the wisest educational move yet made by erecting a two-story building and establishing a graded school. This building with all its contents was totally destroyed by fire on the night of January 3, 1884, but during that season was rebuilt just as before by trustee J. A. Winnings....

Of the first settlers so far as we can learn, only two survive, C. W. Merritt, seventy-six years old, who was a boy in his teens working in Sigurson's nursery, and who still lives here.... The other is Mrs. Katharine Huron, eighty-two years old, who was married here to B. A. Huron Dec. 10, 1935....

In a history of our neighborhood very many memories crowd forward, but space forbids further mention in this already long article, and we forebear.

S.T.H.

MUSEUM MUSINGS for the May, 1986 Bulletin

The museum was like the rest of the population. It didn't get the chance to complain about the long, cold winter. The snow-drifts didn't cause very much trouble, very long anyway.

We had quite a bit of company including three cub scout packs. We also had people doing research, and some who came to visit.

We received considerable memorabilia during the winter. Included were record books, gavel from quite a collection. There were pictures, books, photo albums, and record albums.

The flower bed is making its Spring debut. Some of the earliest Spring flowers flowers made quite a display during an earlier warm spell. The tulips are starting

to bloom now. The flower bed is the project of the Hendricks County Garden Club and it will be a showy spot all summer.

Our pretty dishes!

Thin translucent, fragil china, it speaks of a gentler day. Sturdier stuff was used for every-day, the same as now. Every-day china was sturdy, but it always had a pretty pattern. One can imagine when mother called: "Supper's ready!" Everyone dropped what he was doing. All took their places at the table and the ritual of eating began. No one grabbed something, stuffed it into his mouth and mumbled as he went out the door; "Gotta run--got a meeting, see ya later!" None of that! They didn't eat in shifts. That time hadn't come.

Can't we just see the ladies all done up for the afternoon all set for some gentle conversation? Maybe a--heaven forbid--juicy bit of gossip? A pleasant afternoon was looked forward to. The tea and cake was served in that fragile china.

Care of the dishes was something else. One couldn't just gather up the cups and stow them in the trash! No! The china was washed and dried, carefully!

Ah, sterefoam! Saves a lot of work, we'll all agree, but how about the manners that seemed to be called for with a china tea cup? The former goes along with our busy, busy world today. Hurry, hurry!

Jewell

AARON HART

Who was Aaron Hart and what part is his in the History of Hendricks County? In a roster book of Hendricks County volunteers of the Civil War we find him listed in the Center Township section. This book is a part of the military display in our County Museum, in Danville.

During the early part of 1985, Nellie Maish who lives in Indianapolis, presented the museum with 22 original letters written during the Civil War. Twenty letters are from Aaron Hart to his wife Margaret and two are from her to him.

Every letter from Aaron began - "My dear wife it is with great pleasure that I take my pen in hand to let you know how we are getting along."

Aaron Hart served as a cook. He mailed letters from Camp Shanks (near Indianapolis); Pulaski, Tenn.; Washington Hospital in Memphis, Tenn.; Vicksburg, Miss.; a camp near Nashville, Tenn.; and a camp near Waterloo, Ala.

The fact that we may see these letters, read these letters, actually touch them is amazing for they have been through a fire. The edges are burned and in some there is a charred piece missing altogether

We can only speculate as to the reason for the scorched condition. Were they in a house fire, yet retrieved? Did someone start to destroy them, have second thoughts-- and retrieve them?

Again amazing--these precious letters were stolen from the museum in August 1985. The Danville police retrieved and returned them to us in November 1985.



I had taken my notes for this story shortly after we first received them. While they were missing I gave up ever telling you about them.

How can I explain my thoughts and feelings as I read each letter? (A letter is private between two people.) We get close. We get acquainted. We intrude. I felt I was on sacred ground. Who was I to be there as Aaron addressed his wife as my dear companion? The letters meant so much as I live and breathe Hendricks County history and as I read novel after novel from the Civil War era, and pour over maps & histories. Needless to say I touched these letters lovingly and they mean much to me.

The stationery is often interesting. Some is stamped Indiana soldiers provided by Indiana Sanitary Commission.

In a letter from Vicksburg, Aaron asks for postage stamps. He talks about the calf and chickens and says he hopes to be home to help eat them.

From the hospital he wrote that it would be good to be back with the Regiment as he was very tired of soup. Also that rebel deserters were coming in every day. "They say the Confederacy is about played out and that they can't hold out much longer."

From a camp near Waterloo, Ala. dated Jan. 13, 1865, he says he has been in the saddle 30 days and had to swim the Elk River in Jan. "The water was very cold but it was a military necessity and I got mity tired of riding. My horse give out at Sifrass Creek and I captured a three year old colt. Old soldiers say this has been one of the hardest campaigns of the war."

Vicksburg, Apr. 18, 1865. "We got the most news last night that we have got since the war it was the murder of Lincoln and Seward (Seward misinformation) it has cast a gloom over this army all of the flags are at half mast and all of the bells in the city are tolling. Gen. Banks made a speech and several others and they pass resolutions that all of the soldiers should wear mourning for 30 days and all of the houses are hung in mourning."

"Want to know if you are making my garden or not and if they people are building a gravel road to Clayton or not."

"Well I can't write much more feel so bad after the death of father Abraham.

Yours truly and  
affectionate husband"

Now we can feel that Aaron Hart, from Danville, has stepped right out of the pages of Hendricks County History and shared with us, in a way, become a part of us.

Mary Ann Moore  
Docent at Museum  
From Brownsburg

\*\*\*\*\*

# INFORMATION NEEDED ON WASHINGTON TWP. ORPHANAGE

Susan Carter of the Plainfield Public Library's local history section is seeking information on the Pentecostal Bands of the World and the orphanage they operated on Six Points Road in Washington Township, north of U.S. 40.

The property was purchased on February 20, 1904 from William Mattern and was sold on October 17, 1911. In the intervening years, it is understood that there were several buildings in addition to two houses which were used for the orphanage. A church/school, barn and heating plant were also located on the 80 acre tract.

Those listed as Trustees for the Pentecostal Bands of the World in 1904 were: Thomas B. Nelson, Flora B. Nelson, George E. Bula, Celia Elias, Dora Merryman, Stella Bare and Otto Nater. It is thought that the group went west to Missouri after 1911.

Anyone who has information on the church, orphanage, or who might have resided at the orphanage is urged to contact Susan Carter in care of the Plainfield Public Library, 1120 Stafford Road, Plainfield, IN 46168 or call (317) 839-6602. Any help will be much appreciated.

TO: Hendricks County History Bulletin  
FROM: Susan M. Carter, Historical Librarian

Official groundbreaking for the Plainfield Public Library's new addition of 14,400 square feet took place on Sunday, April 13. The additional space will bring the library facility to a total of 23,700 square feet.

Approximately 2,000 square feet of the addition is dedicated to the Guilford Township Historical Collection, the library's reference collection of local history materials. Currently housed in a room of about 315 square feet, the GTHC will move into the northeast corner of the addition. There will be a public reading area for researchers, a separate materials storage room for preservation and security, a workroom for processing materials, and office space.

The added space will allow better accessibility to books, maps and papers, many of which currently are stored in other parts of the building. Probably most important to local history researchers is the increased seating and table space which has dwindled as more materials have been added to the collection.

Completion of the addition is slated for August of this year. At that time work will begin on the renovation of the original building. The Indianapolis firm of Pecsok, Jelliffe, Randall & Nice estimates a project completion date of October 1986.

Total cost for the addition and renovation is \$1,728,104. The majority of this amount is from general obligation bonds of \$1,335,000 and the balance from a Library Services and Construction Act Title II Grant, the PPL Library Improvement Reserve Fund and interest from project monies.

Watch for further information concerning the dedication and grand opening of



the new library facility. The library trustees and staff hope you will all share that great day with us when it comes!

\*\*\*\*\*

#### QUERY

Info about Jeremiah and Jemina (Stacy) Culbertson. Children David R. & George, b. in Vir.; Emily Jane, b. Tenn.; Vashti & Tarwell, b. Ky.; Nancy, Agnes, Mary birthplace unknown. David R. Culbertson M. Mary Elizabeth Chadd in H. Co., IN on 14 June 1847. Any info about Culbertson or Chadds would be appreciated.

Joan Cunningham  
9 Hedge Row Drive  
Olney, IL 62450

\*\*\*\*\*

#### ANOTHER GHOST TOWN NOTE

by Ruth Mitchell Pritchard

The Hendricks County Flyer advertised a public auction for April 10, 1986, at R. R. 3, Box 362, Clayton, Indiana, located 9 miles west of Plainfield (or 4 miles east of Stilesville) on U.S. 40 to County Road 200 W, then south to the first house on the left. Owners were Wayne and Maxine Clawson. Items listed definitely indicate times along U.S. 40 in the nineteen-eighties.

Wonder what would have been advertised for such a sale ninety-nine years ago when the Clawson name first came to Jacktown.

The first Clawson purchase of real estate at Jacktown was March 23, 1887 from James and Jamina Crawford for one hundred twenty dollars (\$120.00). This was one and one-half acres. More ground was later purchased.

A post office was established there in October of 1888.

A Spanish American War soldier, Charles Clawson, went into military service from this place.

The Clawson family operated a general store and huckster wagon. Gasoline was sold and short order lunches were provided by Charles and Nancy Clawson to motorists on the National Road.

There was a blacksmith shop and other stores but the Clawson name was of the longest duration at Jacktown.

Eugene Clawson, owner of the Clawson House in Clayton, was of this Clawson family.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### A LITTLE OLD BRIDGE WHERE PRITCHARD BRAVED THE WAVES

by Ruth Mitchell Pritchard

A small 1916 bridge east of the Salem Church meeting house has recently been removed. That modern (for 1916) concrete span was on a road which was a part of an angling pioneer roadway. The building of that bridge was a part of a road improvement program for better transportation of pupils to consolidated schools replacing district schools.

The stream under that bridge was the North Branch of McCracken Creek. We Frank Mitchell kids knew the small waterway as "OUR Branch". After all, it meandered northward through our farm. It afforded countless hours of pleasure as we explored every foot of its course.

We Mitchell kids considered the bridge to be Will and Emma Cook's bridge since it was only a few rods east and a little south of their house.

We Mitchell kids annually inspected martins' nest building under Will and Emma's bridge. The birds never seemed to mind the visits from the interested spectators. They just proceeded according to the Creator's plan for their existence.

Memories of those hours and carefree years bring to mind Samuel Woodworth's poem, "The Old Oaken Bucket"-----

How dear to my heart are the  
scenes of my childhood  
When fond recollections present  
them to view  
The orchard, the meadow, the  
deep tangled wildwood  
And every loved spot that my  
infancy knew.

The bridge faithfully served in times of ordinary water flow and also in times of flash floods.

One such high water time was in the fall of 1926. Roy Pritchard and his date, Ruth Mitchell, had been to a mid-week movie. All the way home from Plainfield they witnessed the heaviest downpour either could ever remember.

As we neared the Mitchell home Roy said, "Now the rain will let up about the time we get to the house." Sure enough, it did and we made a dash up the walk to the house.

This was one time when Roy should have tarried for a few minutes. "Date hours" were different in those years from today's regulations (or lack of them) and we knew the rules. Besides Roy must leave for work early the next morning.

Taking advantage of the lull between showers, Roy confidently drove away homeward bound. He did not get very far. He descended the Stanley Hill and found water a foot deep (maybe more) between the foot of the hill and the bridge. The trouble was with the much deeper water west of the bridge. The car simply stalled.

Roy looked the situation over and decided to bail out and go for help. He took off shoes and socks. He rolled his trouser legs as high as possible. He



stepped out of the car into water much much deeper than he had expected and headed for the Will Cook house.

The first knock brought Will to the kitchen door (our usual entrance).

Roy said, "Will, my car is stalled in the high water this side of the bridge. Will you pull it out with one of your horses?"

Will replied, "NO! I won't. The horses are in the pasture and I am not going to go after them!"

Roy said, "All right" and barefoot Roy hurried on down the road. (What a picture that must have been for those times--only it was dark and no observers present anyway.) Roy never said whether he walked or ran on that gravel road that night. He went on by the Salem Church down through the hollow south of the church, up over another rise, on through another hollow--up to the Sumner Mitchell place.

Lee Mitchell responded to his good friend's plea for help, in the affirmative. Lee and Roy got one of the work horses up and harnessed it for pulling. Both boys mounted and were on the way to the stranded automobile.

Whether they had a flashlight or a kerosene lantern, it was immediately evident when they arrived that there was no water around that car.

Lee said, "Roy, I don't know about you!"

Roy said in a rather perplexed way, "Really, there was water all around--way up high when I left."

Lee and Roy hitched the horse to the car. Lee rode the horse and Roy steered the car. When they arrived at the Pritchard place, Roy said, "I wonder what would happen if I stepped on the starter?"

He did and that 1925 Overland coupe started right away. Lee had a big question all over his face at that, Roy lifted the hood of the car. Debris from the high water left on the motor block, supported Roy's story.

Lee had shown that he was indeed a friend in need. They had many laughs over the high-water ordeal.

\*\*\*\*\*

In response to the suggestion in our last BULLETIN that it would be fun to collect excerpts from old autograph books, Mary Ann Moore sent these. They are taken from Earl Craven's Autograph Book 1889-1892. It was given to the Museum by Harriet Craven 2/25/86.

And still my love  
Will never fail  
And still the pussy  
Has a tail.  
Odessa Ferree Miller

Love many, trust few  
Always paddle your own canoe.  
Abbie

May your life be long and happy  
May your troubles be but few  
May your friends be just as many  
As the sparkling drops of dew.

Saura Frame

When this you see, remember me  
And take a little catnip tea.

Nova Clark

May you live long, and have good times  
And marry a girl that has the dimes.  
John Henderson

May your virtues ever shine  
Like the blossoms on a pumpkin vine.  
Celia Hadley

May you ever have the pleasant and sunny disposition which you now possess; and become a good and useful man.

A true friend and teacher

A. Bertha Wiley

Danville, IN Jan. 4, 1889

Lucille Stamper sent these copies from an autograph book of 1936 by students of Pittsboro Schools:

The higher the mountain  
The cooler the breeze,  
The younger the couple  
The tighter the squeeze.

The thing that goes the farthest  
In making life worth while  
That costs the least and does the most  
Is just a pleasant smile.

When you get married and have twins  
Don't come to me for safety pins.

Yours till the COUNTRY GENTLEMAN climbs  
the SATURDAY EVENING POST to see the  
LADIES HOME JOURNAL.

In your chain of friendship  
Consider me a link.

When the golden sun is setting  
And this path no more you trod  
May your name be ever written  
In the Autograph of God.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### DEATH RECORDS FOUND RATHER UNINFORMATIVE

STATE personnel, photographing old vital statistics records for more compact storage, 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."

\*\*\*\*\*

(This 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.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

#### IN SYMPATHY

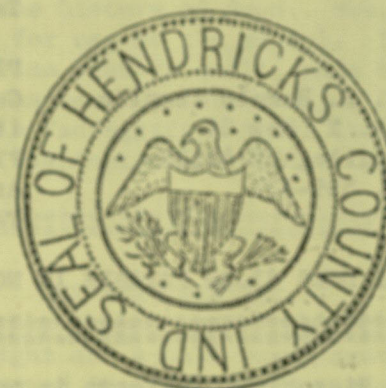
Our Society mourns the loss of another member, Jack Johnson, who passed away recently. Jack was sort of a walking history concerning Danville and the people of this vicinity. It had been suggested that he do an interview, but he seemed a bit uncomfortable with the idea, so many interesting stories have been lost. We extend our sympathy to his wife, Carrie, and the family.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*



# HENDRICKS COUNTY

## HISTORY BULLETIN



VOLUME XVII NUMBER III

AUGUST 1986  
PUBLISHED BY

THE HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DANVILLE, INDIANA

HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
BOX 128  
DANVILLE, IN 46122

Patricia Cox  
310 Urban  
Danville IN 46122

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U. S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
DANVILLE, IN  
PERMIT #303



HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

ORGANIZED 1967

OFFICERS 1986

PRESIDENT

Betty Bartley  
R R 6, Box 213  
Danville, IN 46122  
Tel. 745-2828

VICE PRESIDENT

Miss Libbe Hughes  
85 Cartersburg Road  
Danville, IN 46122  
Tel. 745-4833

SECRETARY

Miss Jewell Bell  
212 East Road 200 N  
Danville, IN 46122  
Tel. 745-4055

TREASURER

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

HISTORIAN

Mrs. H. Harold Templin  
R. R. 2, Box 86  
Danville, IN 46122  
Tel. 539-4311

PUBLICITY

Miss Jewell Bell  
212 East Road 200 N  
Danville, IN 46122  
Tel. 745-4055

GENEALOGISTS

Miss Grace Cox  
494 West Clinton St.  
Danville, IN 46122  
Tel. 745-2552

Mrs. Roy Pritchard  
R. R. 1, Box 454  
Clayton, IN 46118  
Tel. 539-6890

Mrs. Roy Fisher  
Pittsboro, IN 46167  
Tel. 892-4780

Mrs. H. Harold Templin  
R. R. 2, Box 86  
Danville, IN 46122  
Tel. 539-4311

HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS

Danville Public Library  
101 S. Indiana  
Danville, IN 46122  
Attention: Betty Bartley  
Tel. 745-2604

Plainfield Public Library  
Guilford Twp. Historical Collection  
1120 Stafford Road  
Plainfield, IN 46168  
Attention: Susan Miller Carter  
Tel. 839-6602

ANNUAL DUES \$3.00 PAYABLE IN NOVEMBER

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

The Hendricks County Historical Bulletin is published quarterly in February, May, August and November. It is distributed without charge to members of the Society and to Hendricks County School Libraries. Individual copies of \$2.00. Communications concerning back copies or individual copies should be addressed to our secretary. Contributions or suggestions to The Bulletin should be mailed to the editor.

Margaret Baker  
(Mrs. C. Rawleigh Baker)  
9 Round Hill Road  
Danville, IN 46122  
Tel. 745-2115

"If we give time to studying how men and women of the past have dwelt with life's enduring problems, then we will be better prepared when these same problems come our way. We may be less surprised to find treachery at work in the world about us, as little less startled by unselfish devotion, a little readier to believe in the capacity of the human mind."

Education Secretary William J. Bennett

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT:

The movie, "HOOSIERS", which is the subject of the next meeting, was recently previewed for an audience in California. Comments about the movie were very favorable. The only complaint that some had was about the title--they didn't know what a "hoosier" was!

The word, "hoosier" may have obscure origins, but we all know what it means because we grew up hearing it. But what about the people who have lived in Hendricks County and don't know its history? Hopefully, more people will find out about "Hoosiers" when the film is released. And hopefully, more people will find out about "Hendricks" through our Society and its members.

Betty

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

THE MAY MEETING

Members and guests gathered at the Avon United Methodist Church on May 4. Mrs. Lorrie Bohlen and members of the 3rd grade class at the Avon Upper Elementary School presented a program on the history of Avon. Mrs. Bohlen has prepared a study course on local history for use at the school. The presentation included slides, paintings, and a time-line history quilt, made by the students. The students assisting in the program were Christy Arango, Corbin Braeger, Jennifer Lombardo, Andy Pitcher, and Kyle Vandegrift. After the program, refreshments were provided by the ladies of Washington and Middle townships.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

OUR NEXT MEETING

What's it like to spend eight and a half years restoring a Victorian house, then have all your work transformed in a matter of weeks? We'll find out at our next meeting, August 3, 2 P.M., at the Brownsburg Public Library.

Debbie Burns, owner of the Downard house, a mile north of Hadley, will relate her experiences with the cast and crew of the movie "HOOSIERS" when her house became one of the filming sites for the movie, which will be released this fall.

Debbie will talk about her experiences before, during, and after her house became a movie star. She will also tell about the other sites in the county that were used in the film. Don't miss this meeting for a behind-the-scenes look at the filming of "HOOSIERS".

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

WILLARD HEISS RETIRES

In May of this year, Willard Heiss announced his retirement as chairman of the Indiana Historical Society's Family History Section.

For more than 50 years Mr. Heiss has helped people work their way through the genealogical forest. Many travellers on the trail of an elusive ancestor have had their paths made easier by advice from Willard. Those of us with Quaker ancestors



continue to reap the benefits of his years of work compiling, editing, and publishing his ABSTRACTS OF THE RECORDS OF THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS IN INDIANA.

Mr. Heiss has given his help generously to our Society and to its members. When early transcripts of cemetery records were compiled, he furnished photocopies for our files. He arranged for the microfilming of the applications for ancestors certificates compiled during the Sesquicentennial, and recently microfilmed the records for Abner's Creek Baptist Church.

His appearance at genealogy workshops in this county always drew many researchers with many, many, many questions. Mr. Heiss would always try to find an answer each question that was put to him, in person, or by mail.

Retirement from IHS does not mean an end to Mr. Heiss' contributions to the field of genealogy. He has announced plans to publish THE HOOSIER HANDBOOK OF GENEALOGY, and a HANDBOOK FOR HISTORIANS AND GENEALOGISTS FOR QUAKER RESEARCH IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA, among other projects.

The members of HCHS extend their heartfelt thanks to Willard Heiss for his work with the Indiana Historical Society, and wish him well in his future endeavors.

#### MATTIE A. KEENEY

Is there any occupation that has a more widespread effect on our civilization than that of teacher? The teacher who instills a love of learning in a single child influences all those whose lives are touched by that child. A teacher who inspires a classroom full of children, year after year, will inspire generations to come through each pupil.

One such teacher was Mattie A. Keeney, whose 45 years as a teacher in Danville Schools helped to shape the lives of hundreds of pupils. Born in 1849, the daughter of Rev. Nelson Green, she began her career in private schools. She taught in the Danville public schools in the 1870's. In 1872 she married John W. Keeney.

The building she taught in was located north of where the present South Elementary School is today. The school was erected in 1873. In 1879 it was damaged by fire and rebuilt.

In 1904, Lannes McPhetridge, a reporter for the Indianapolis News and former pupil of Mattie Keeney, organized a reunion of her pupils. A petition was circulated and presented to the School Board, asking that the name of the South building be changed to "The M. A. Keeney School". The petition was accepted and passed.

Nearly 200 former pupils gathered at the old school to honor their beloved teacher. Contributions from 302 graduates were gathered for a gift to present to Mrs. Keeney. She received a silk sack embroidered with forget-me-nots, containing \$130 in gold, along with a roll of ribbon 4 yards long with the names of the donors inscribed.

In 1913, a bronze tablet was placed in the Mattie A. Keeney building that read:

"This building was dedicated to Mrs. M. A. Keeney  
by her loving pupils scattered o'er land and sea"

Mattie A. Keeney retired from teaching in 1923. In 1933 the Danville Commercial Club honored her as one of five outstanding women of the community. She died at the age of 90, in December of 1939. Her career might well be summed up in the words of Harry Scarse who spoke at the unveiling of the bronze tablet. He said that though the tablet might withstand the ravages of time for years, or perhaps centuries, it could never last as long as the good effects of her splendid teachings.

The bronze tablet honoring Mrs. Keeney was removed when the old school building was torn down in 1929, after the present South Elementary was completed. The tablet was recently re-discovered and cleaned. The Superintendent of Danville Community Schools, Henry Cox, says that plans are being made to find a suitable location for it. We hope to have further news about this in our November Bulletin.

The two documents that follow show the range of affection of Mattie Keeney's pupils. The first is a copy of the petition circulated to have the old school named in her honor. The 57 signatures contain the names of some of Danville's most prominent citizens of that era.

The second document is a letter written by Mrs. Keeney to Floy Underwood, one of her pupils. This short note of encouragement was found by Mrs. Virginia Reklis among papers belonging to her mother, Floy Underwood Modesitt. The fact that her pupil kept this note for more than 80 years indicates the feeling of admiration for Mrs. Keeney.

#### PETITION

Danville, IN 1904

To the Danville School Board--

We, the undersigned citizens, taxpayers and patrons of the Danville Public Schools hereby petition your honorable Board to name the South school in Danville "The M. A. Keeney School." We make this petition in view of the long and faithful service of Mrs. M. A. Keeney not only during the administration of this Board, but during that of many former Boards, both as a teacher and as an uplifting force in bettering the influences of this community.

#### Signed

Charles A. White  
J. M. Jeffers  
A. L. Marsh  
B. F. Howell  
O. T. Spenser  
A. G. Thompson  
Geo. C. Harvey  
C. L. McCoun  
Jas. McCoun  
Raleigh McCoun  
Jos. W. Ferree  
E. M. Wilhite

C. E. Farabee  
F. P. Reichard  
C. L. Thompson  
E. W. Homan  
John Fitzgerald  
L. B. Baughman  
Horace C. McVey  
J. N. Dempsey  
Simon Hadley  
A. H. Kennedy  
D. A. Higgins  
E. D. Nichols



Geo. W. Reichard  
Guy Kelleher  
T. Cope  
C. W. Stewart  
F. H. Huron  
Alfred Welshans  
J. T. Barker  
Thad S. Adams  
W. L. Wilson  
Fred E. Warner  
Julian D. Hogate  
Mord. Carter  
W. C. Osbourne  
Chas Z. Cook  
J. A. Showalter  
Wilbur Masten  
A. N. Bell

H. L. Parker  
E. C. Pennington  
W. L. Underwood  
B. F. Noble  
C. E. Edwards  
R. D. Snyder  
C. O. Haines  
E. P. Thompson  
J. H. Wilson  
W. W. Leachman  
R. Middleton  
L. M. Christie  
Grow Bros.  
J. K. Little  
Henry Hadley  
Geo. D. Foote

Danville, Ind.  
January 20, 1900

Dear Floy:

Thanks for your promptness in responding to my request. Your efforts to be prompt and to be up with all the work I assign you is a great comfort to me.

Thanks, too, for your kind words; a kind word helps very often to smooth down the rough places in life's journey.

I am sorry you dislike Grammar for it is so important a study--but do not neglect it. Perhaps you will learn to like it better someday.

To be honest with you, I have thought, myself, there was just a little tendency backward lately--especially in perfect orderly application to study. You have a little more temptation since you have someone right opposite you than when it was a vacant seat. Are you strong enough to resist the temptation, or not? It is only when temptation comes to us that we are able to tell how strong we are. Any one can be good if he has no temptation to be any thing else. Do not allow any yielding in this line spoil your many good school qualities.

Lovingly,

H.A.K.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS !!!!

Montgomery County Genealogy Society  
c/o Crawfordsville Library  
222 S. Washington  
Crawfordsville, IN 47933

Ruth Scott  
344 School Rd.  
Plainfield, IN 46168

# New Members (Continued)

Irvin H. Keeler  
3710 Avon Rd.  
Plainfield, IN 46168

Archives  
DePauw University  
Greencastle, IN 46135-0037

Robert Peterman  
P. O. Box 74  
Danville, IN 46122

Mary Smith  
85 S. Washington  
Danville, IN 46122

Mrs. Frances R. Johnson  
1419 Sherwood Lane  
Oklahoma City, OK 73116

## NOTICE

Any members who formerly had Danville Rural Route addresses and do not have their corrected address on the label of this Bulletin, please inform the Secretary of your "new" address.

## MUSEUM MUSINGS

The Hendricks County Historical Museum is usually a busy place. Generally we will find people coming on Tuesdays, although we are there on Saturdays too.

People have been coming in from out-of-state to check on Hendricks County ancestors. Some are quite pleased with their finding while others will have to pursue their efforts elsewhere.

School groups enjoy visiting the museum. We hear that a visit to the museum is a "must" for third graders of a certain school in the county.

Every so often we will receive books.

During June the models got together and decided to really show off the bridal gowns. The gowns, while ever new, date back a long way into the past. Some have lots of hand embroidery. And that was done on net! It took a long time to make. The dates included 1876, 1914, 1920, 1939, and 1942. Dorothy Kelley and Mary Ann Moore assisted.

The Hendricks County Garden Club planted the flower bed with scarlet sage and marigolds both orange and pale yellow. They are really showy.

It's so nice when a note is enclosed with a contribution to the museum. For example, a fine black dress of peau de soie was received and an accompanying note told that the material was so nice that the family felt that only a professional dressmaker should make it. The dress, incidently, was probably made before 1900. Notes like that adds so much.

## Back Porches

There have been lots of stories about front porches and how folks sat and watched the world go by. A friend told of passing through an area while on vacation. She said it was six-thirty a.m. and folks were already sitting on the front porch! She wondered when they ever got their work done.



But what about the back porches? For lots of families it was the center of activity. It was a good place to get in out of the sun. It was a good place to come out of the rain unless the wind blew from the wrong direction. Some were open, others screened and others were glassed in.

But, whatever, it caught everything! Maybe a new stove was installed. Where did the old one go? On the back porch "for now". The furniture wasn't the last word in perfectly matched porch furniture. Usually it consisted of chairs that had seen better days.

The back porch in summer was where the beans got fixed, corn shucked, etc. Meal preparation in summer really began there. In the fall if a killer frost seemed imminent, the pole beans, and all other garden sass that could be accommodated were tucked under the table to be used as long as they lasted. Lots of lively conversation could be heard.

The back porch caught the dirty boots first. We might have to unload all the cats before we could use the mat. This mat might be a proper "store bought" one, or maybe it was a piece of an old rug. Most likely it was an old gunny sack that had been chewed beyond redemption by the mice.

We'd find nails, hefty ones too, driven into the walls and some in the rafters. Hats hung there in summer. In pre-electricity days there was a place for the lantern. Long red peppers hung there til dry. Flowers were hung out in summer. There might be a clothes line where a few pieces could be hung to dry.

The museum has a screened and glassed-in back porch. It is now fixed with jalousies that can be opened and closed as needed. From the information we've received, that porch was used like all back porches--as a catch-all. There are nails conveniently placed and there is a clothes line too.

The back porch is certainly a handy item!

Jewell

#### JOHN CRAIG --- THE HEAVIEST MAN ALIVE

"A prosperous farmer, a popular citizen, and a sight to behold is John Hanson Craig, the mastadon man, from Danville, Indiana."

For a quarter of a century, John Hanson Craig, "the heaviest man alive", was a part of the scene in Danville. Born in Iowa in 1847, the son of John and Helen Craig, he weighed 11 pounds at birth. At the age of 11 months he weighed 77 pounds. At the age of two, he was taken to P. T. Barnum's Baby Show at New York City, where he won \$1,000 for being the world's heaviest baby: little Johnnie tipped the baby scales at 206 pounds!

During the 1890's, it could be said that John Hanson Craig was in "top form". He stood 6 feet 5 inches tall, and weighed 907 pounds. He measured 8 feet 4 inches around his hips, 60 inches around his thighs, and 65 inches around his chest. Harry McPhetridge, a local tailor, once put one of Craig's suits in his display window. Three local men borrowed the coat, buttoned themselves inside it, and took a stroll around the square.

Craig's career as a showman started in his teens, when he weighed a mere 500 or so pounds. He began touring with P. T. Barnum's circus. During his travels he became acquainted with Mary Jane Kesler, daughter of Lewis Kesler of Hendricks County. She was known as "Barnum's Fat Lady", and at over 700 pounds, she was one of the attractions at Barnum's Great American Museum in New York. She was appearing there at the time the building was destroyed by fire in 1868, narrowly escaping with her life, and losing her wardrobe and a large sum of cash in the blaze.

On March 30, 1869, John Hanson Craig and Mary Jane Kesler were married in Hendricks County. Using their show names, Powers and French, they started their own travelling circus. They toured throughout the Southern, Middle and Eastern States, returning to a home on North Washington Street in Danville to rest between tours.

At one point, Craig tried to retire from show business. He opened a candy and lunch room on the east side of the square in Danville. The venture was not successful, so he moved the business to his home. As an added attraction he featured the animals he had used in his circus: 2 monkeys, a young gorilla, 2 macaws, and a 10 foot snake, all of which could be seen by the public for 25c. A fire in 1874 destroyed his "zoo" and he and Mary soon began to take their show back on the road.

The strain of travel and poor health eventually took a toll on Mary Craig. She died on October 4, 1881. Her coffin had to be made to order in Indianapolis. It measured 6 feet in length and was 2½ feet wide. It was too large to be taken through the doorway of the house, so carpenters removed the window casing and the coffin was passed through the window to a wagon. It was her request to be buried at the Mt. Pleasant cemetery, north of Danville.

John Craig returned to touring, as it was his only means of making a living. On one of his tours he met and married Jennie Ryan, a native of Tippecanoe county, Indiana. How Jennie became connected with the circus is unknown. Photos of her show a rather petite, dark-haired woman of normal weight. She would not appear different from other women of the period were she not dressed in leotards with a boa constrictor wrapped around her neck!

Jennie Craig's demeanor also differed from that of most Victorian women. A newspaper report in 1887 stated that she came to her husband's rescue during an argument between John and a fellow showman. The other fellow was ready to take a swing at Mr. Craig's nose, when Mrs. Craig rushed in and received the force of the blow. The article continued: "She fell, but was up again in a second, and the way she went for that fellow was a caution. She kicked him one in the abdomen, which downed him. Then she literally walked all over him. He was carried off the field on a canvas."

In October of 1890, Jennie gave birth to the Craig's only child, Helen. John Craig was touring in Spencer at the time and was summoned home by a telegram. "Mr. Craig treads on air now, so to speak," the local paper reported. "and thinks the best show on earth is now at his own house."

The Craig family continued to tour together. The beginning of the tour was usually in Danville. An issue of the local paper reported that "Craig's Congress of Wonders" would be appearing soon. Mr. Craig proposes to give a refined entertainment with nothing to mar the feelings of the most fastidious. Ladies and children can attend without an escort." An example of such entertainment might have included a Female Brass Band, a trapeze performance, or a Punch and Judy puppet show. On one occasion, Prof. Francisco was to make a tight rope ascension



from the highest houses in Danville.

Marital problems entered the Craig home. Jennie filed for divorce in December of 1892, charging cruel and inhuman treatment. She asked for \$1,500 in alimony and child custody. The divorce was granted in January of 1893.

By April of the same year, things had changed and the local newspaper had the following story: "SWEET BELLS IN TUNE -- John Hanson Craig, heaviest man alive or that ever did live, and Mrs. Jennie Craig were married last evening by Rev. Brewer. The couple were divorced at the January term of court, but single life was not endurable and fate drew them together again." At the time of their second marriage, Mr. Craig was 47 and his wife was 27.

The couple separated again in the spring of 1894. Jennie left the child with her husband and returned to her family's home in Tippecanoe county. John Craig's health, which had been failing, took a turn for the worst. On June 25, 1894, he died at his home in Danville. As was the case with his first wife, a custom-made coffin was constructed, 6 feet 9 inches in length, and 34 inches wide. Again, the window casing had to be removed to bring the coffin out of the house to the waiting wagon. Again, the procession led to the Mt. Pleasant cemetery. The K. of P. Lodge of which Craig was a member, was in charge of the services. William Roddy, Craig's manager, held 3-year-old Helen during the ceremony. Craig had arranged for Roddy to care for the child until such time as the mother returned for her.

Jennie Craig returned to Danville to settle the estate. The home on North Washington was sold. In January of 1895, she and William Roddy were married in Danville. What happened to her after that date is unknown. In 1943 she had become Mrs. F. O. Markle, and was residing in San Diego, California. She made a short visit to Danville that year, and for a time, brought back to many of the citizens, memories of the days when "the heaviest man alive" made Danville his home.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### IN MEMORIAM

Our society has lost two faithful members since our last publication. Claire Sellars, a charter member, passed away after having spent the past few years in Miller's Merry Manor, Inc. in Mooresville. A former teacher for many years, he, as well as his late wife, were interested and active members as long as health permitted.

William E. Hopkins maintained his interest in things historical as a member not only of our society but of the Guilford Township Historical Society. We extend our deepest sympathy to the families of these two faithfuls.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### HOOSIER CELEBRATION '88

Plainfield, which recently was named an official "Hoosier Celebration '88" community, has initiated its program with the release of the book, "Plainfield, Indiana, A Pictorial History."

According to Susan Miller Carter, chairperson for the Heritage Phase of Plainfield's program, the local history book is one of the first contributions to the celebration which is sponsored by Indiana Governors Robert Orr, Otis R. Bowen and Matthew Welsh.

"Hoosier Celebration '88" is a program for communities throughout Indiana to share tradition, history, values and civic pride while preparing for an equally glorious future.

The Plainfield book, written by Margaret Moore Post, who grew up on the National Road, is receiving accolades in editorials and letters to the editor. The Indianapolis News, in an editorial, said the book "may set a pattern for other distinctive Hoosier communities to take similar steps to preserve their colorful past."

Mary Lee and Betty M. Cull of North Vernon, writing to the Indianapolis Star, said "As Hoosier Celebration '88 approaches, we think this Plainfield Book would be a fine model for those who are planning to write of their towns and cities."

Noting that the Governors are asking for such documents, the women said: "This book could make the task easier for the writers, as Mrs. Post has written about subjects they shall need to search out in each community."

The 224-page hardback book, printed by Allan Rivers, Starken Printing Company, and sponsored by Joe Lease through the First American National Bank of Plainfield, has a beautifully designed cover featuring James W. Wilson's drawing of the Van Buren Elm.

Pictures for the book were gathered by Lease whose hobby for 26 years was the collecting of historical photographs. About 400 photos are in the book. Lease has made arrangements to deposit his collection in the Guilford Township Historical Collection of the Plainfield Public Library.

Mrs. Post has documented in prose and photo artlines the rich history of Plainfield as it emerged from a wilderness, witnessed the building of the National Road, and became a thriving industrial, business and educational community.

Many stories are included in the book. Among these are the upsetting of Martin Van Buren from a stagecoach, treatment of alcoholics at the Keeley Institute, the state's first bookmobile, Indiana's first and largest nursery, chautauquas, circuses and the town's noted photographer, Moses Tomlinson.

Featured in the book is the history of Plainfield's churches which have contributed to spiritual and cultural life, as well as schools, libraries, elections, postal service, rich farmlands, financial institutions, organizations and many other subjects. One section, "They Achieve," tells of residents known nationally or statewide. Newspaper history plays a vital role.

Mrs. Post spent more than a year doing research and writing the book. She was assisted by many Plainfield residents and by librarians. The author retired three years ago after 30 years as a reporter for The Indianapolis News. Her book, "First Ladies of Indiana and the Governors," has recorded nearly 5000 sales. It now has been made into cassette tapes for the blind and other physically handicapped.

The Plainfield history is available at the First American National Bank, 101 West Main Street, Plainfield, IN 46168. The price is \$21 over the counter and \$22.50 by mail.

Herb Thibo is chairperson of the Steering Committee for Plainfield's Hoosier Celebration '88. He will be overseeing subsequent celebration activities, including the Vision, Project, and Celebration phases.



## BUILDING PROGRAM

The furnishings committee, Kay Goff, Chair, assisted by Mary McMillan, Nancy Newlin, and Susan Carter, have been meeting with the architect, J. Parke Randall, to plan the myriad details which are necessary for the new building.

Of special interest to the county's local history enthusiasts will be the new, large quarters for the Guilford Township Historical Collection for county history. The Plainfield Library Board, which has been most supportive of the local history collection since its inception in the 1960's, has provided for a separate, secured, climate-controlled room for the storage of historical materials relating to the county.

A vastly expanded seating area for local history researchers will be provided, with seating in the immediate area for 16 persons. Microfilm sources will be adjacent with a reader/printer available.

Susan Miller Carter

IN FARMING AND HOMEMAKING

### Uses of Salt

Page 10

## Picking Ducks

### Potato Water for Silver

## How to Destroy Lice

## How to Wean Colts

## Heat Cloths

## A Clear Windshield

### A Good Hitch

### To Avoid Burned Milk

Page 11



### Mixing Pigs

When it is found advisable to transfer small pigs from one sow to another, but the sow refuses to accept the strange pigs, try sprinkling both the pigs and the sow's nose with a milk disinfectant. Then the sow will not know the pigs apart.

### Removing Chiggers

This may sound simple but it works for us. Instead of attempting to dig out chiggers with a needle, take a little piece of adhesive tape, press over the chigger tightly, and then pull off. The chigger will stick to the tape.

(Contributed by Lucille Stamper)

\*\*\*\*\*

### The Modern Good Old Days

Solar heat - soaking up sunshine while hanging laundry to dry on an outdoor clothesline.

Physical education - doing chores like chopping wood (and watching out for the toes), milking a kicking cow and remaining unscathed.

Going organic-- eating raw vegetables right out of the garden and apples off the trees.

Theology class - Dad reading aloud from the Bible with the family gathered 'round.

A course in biology - an all-night session in the hog-house at farrowing time.

Athletics - walking to and from school,  
playing one-o-cat in the pasture  
and on the way home, don't forget to bring the cows!

Physical examination - Mom seating us on a high stool and saying sternly, "Hold out your tongue; hmmm, nothing wrong that a good dose of castor oil can't cure."

Lesson in discipline - a flying trip to the woodshed with Dad.

A practical home economics course - buying groceries for the whole family with 30¢ oats.

Sedatives - hard work - the only kind we ever knew or needed.

Uppers - a "kitchen sweat", a barn dance, and - false teeth?!

Tranquility - a clear conscience and a heart at peace.

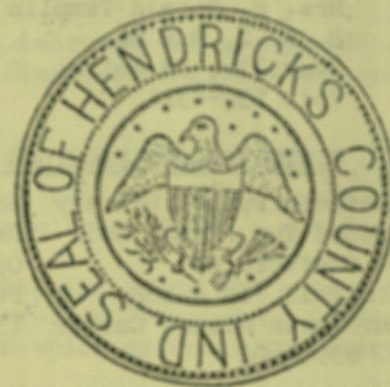
Margaret Brekke

\*\*\*\*\*



# HENDRICKS COUNTY

## HISTORY BULLETIN



VOLUME XVIII NUMBER I  
FEBRUARY 1987  
PUBLISHED BY  
THE HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
DANVILLE, INDIANA

HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
BOX 126  
DANVILLE, IN 46122

Patricia Cox  
310 Urban  
Danville IN 46122

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U. S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
DANVILLE, IN  
PERMIT #303



HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

ORGANIZED 1967

OFFICERS 1987

PRESIDENT

Betty Bartley  
1223 S 450 W  
Danville, IN 46122  
Tel. 745-2828

VICE PRESIDENT

Miss Libbe Hughes  
85 Cartersburg Road  
Danville, IN 46122  
Tel. 745-4833

SECRETARY

Miss Jewell Bell  
212 East Road 200 N  
Danville, IN 46122  
Tel. 745-4055

TREASURER

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

HISTORIAN

Janet Woodrum  
R R 1, Box 28  
Linton, Indiana 46149  
Tel. 994-5759

PUBLICITY

Miss Jewell Bell  
212 East Road 200 N  
Danville, IN 46122  
Tel. 745-4055

GENEALOGISTS

Miss Grace Cox  
494 West Clinton St.  
Danville, IN 46122  
Tel. 745-2552

Mrs. Roy Pritchard  
R. R. 1, Box 454  
Clayton, IN 46118  
Tel. 539-6890

Mrs. Roy Fisher  
Pittsboro, IN 46167  
Tel. 892-4780

Mrs. H. Harold Templin  
R. R. 2, Box 86  
Danville, IN 46122  
Tel. 539-4311

HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS

Danville Public Library  
101 S. Indiana  
Danville, IN 46122  
Attention: J. Woodrum  
Tel. 745-2604

Plainfield Public Library  
Guilford Twp. Hist. Col.  
1120 Stafford Rd.  
Plainfield, IN 46168  
Attn: Susan Miller Carter  
Tel. 839-6602

Hendricks County Hist. Museum  
Danville, IN 46122  
Open Tues & Sat 1 - 4 P.M.  
For further information call  
(317) 745-4055 or 852-2810

ANNUAL DUES \$3.00 PAYABLE IN NOVEMBER

\*\*\*\*\*

The Hendricks County Historical Bulletin is published quarterly in February, May, August and November. It is distributed without charge to members of the Society and to Hendricks County School Libraries. Individual copies of \$2.00 Communications concerning back copies or individual copies should be addressed to our secretary. Contributions or suggestions to The Bulletin should be mailed to the editor.

Margaret Baker  
(Mrs. C. Rawleigh Baker)  
9 Round Hill Road  
Danville, IN 46122  
Tel. 745-2115

Inasmuch as the future is absolutely dark to our eyes and is the abode of charlatans, we have only the past to go to when we seek relief from the frustrations of the present. Not to the past of nostalgics, romantics, and antiquarians, but the past that is a vast theater in time from which to draw inspiration and even role-models.

..... Robert Nisbet CHRONICLES

HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Birthdays are a time to remember the past, look to the future, and celebrate the present. In this, Hendricks County Historical Society's 20th year, we can look back on twenty years of progress in preserving our county's past. We can look to the future, to future publications and projects and more members! But most of all, we should make this a year to celebrate. Every member has contributed to the Society's success. Congratulations to each and every member and a happy 20th birthday to all!!

Betty

\*\*\*\*\*

HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS

NOVEMBER MEETING

Approximately 45 members gathered at the Plainfield Public Library, Nov. 2, drawn there as much by interest in the beautifully expanded building as by the most interesting program promised us.

Betty Bartley, president, welcomed the group with a few remarks about the Library and introduced Cassie Swann, Plainfield, who gave engaging devotions, using as her subject REMEMBERING.

During the business meeting, Susan Carter, gave the following report of the Nominating Committee which was accepted: Betty Bartley, pres.; Libbe Hughes, vice pres.; Jewell Bell, Sec.; Blanche Wean, treas.; and Janet Woodrum, historian.

Ida Mae Miller didn't disappoint us as she gave a thoroughly researched discussion of the Plainfield-Cartersburg Gravel Road Company. This company built what is now U.S. 40 in their section which extended to Belleville. It opened as a toll road.

Mrs. Miller gave a biographical sketch of Samuel Little who was instrumental in organizing the company. The three of his descendants who were present at the meeting were Miss Grace Cox, Danville, Esther Edmondson Johnson, Plainfield, and Howard Little, Clayton.

The meeting adjourned to sample the refreshments prepared by the ladies of Guilford Township and to tour the building.

\*\*\*\*\*

OUR NEXT MEETING

We will usher in February, 1987, on the 1st by going back to Court and sitting in front of Judge Jeffrey Boles! This is not as frightening as it may sound. You will remember that in February, 1985, Judge Boles told us the story of the priceless mural on the south side of the circuit court room. Now he has quite a bit of additional information for us. He is very enthusiastic about this project and it is sure to be another outstanding program. In addition, Jewell Bell is preparing some "tid bits" related to the original Hendricks County Society.



This is an important year for our society as it is our 20th anniversary. To mark this occasion refreshments will feature a cake instead of the usual cookie fare. We haven't yet been told if we will have balloons and fire works as we did to celebrate Lady Liberty's birthday (please, committee, no Elvis Presley look-alikes!) but I rather doubt it ... after all, we aren't quite that old.

It is interesting, too, to note that our birthday coincides with the 200th of our Constitution. Two important milestones!

\*\*\*\*\*

#### IMPORTANT NOTICE

Please check to be certain that you have renewed your membership in the Hendricks County Historical Society for 1987. If your membership has lapsed, you will not receive the May Bulletin and we don't want to lose you from our "family". If you are in doubt about your membership, please check with Jewell Bell or any of the society officers at the February meeting. Don't miss out-renew today!!

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Hendricks County Historical Society 1987 Program Schedule

LOOK AT WHAT A VARIETY THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE HAS PLANNED FOR US  
THIS YEAR! YOU WILL REGRET IT IF YOU MISS A SINGLE MEETING.  
GO RIGHT NOW AND MARK THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR.

February 2, 1987

P: Circuit Courtroom Mural: The Continuing Story by Judge Jeffrey Boles  
Highlights of the First Hendricks County Historical Society by Jewell Bell

Pl: Hendricks County Courthouse-Circuit courtroom

May 3, 1987

P: Pageant (title to be announced) written and directed by Mary Ann Moore

Pl: The Royal Pictureshow and Playhouse, 59 S. Washington St., Danville

August 2, 1987

P: A Look at the Laughter in Hendricks County Newspapers by Libbe K. Hughes

Pl: Bartlett's Chapel United Methodist Church, 4360 E. Main St., Danville

November 1, 1987

P: Plainfield's W. T. Hornaday: Native Son, American Naturalist by John Miller

Pl: Plainfield Public Library 1120 Stafford Road Plainfield

The weather man treated us nicely and gave nice weather for the "Christmas at the Museum" Open House. We didn't get any rain or snow and we were grateful.

The house was beautifully decorated by Duane Martin of Martin's Greenhouse in North Salem. Poinsettias were feature. Thanks Duane!

During the holiday season approximately 291 visited. Beside the visitors during "Open House" there were 3 (fourth grade) classes from Danville, 49 students of Mrs. Monte's class, also from Danville. There were two Boy Scout troops. One was from Brownsburg and one from Danville.

The invitation was extended to quilters to come by and try their hand. One lady did and did she ever have a ball!

Docents, we need docents! Some company on Saturday would be welcome.

Recent visitors of the museum were 19 clients from Cummins Mental Health, Danville. There were 9 clients from Opportunity Cottage, and approximately 11 from Nancy Moore's M-1 Class, Brownsburg.

#### A Tour of the Museum Library

Let's take a tour of the museum's library just for fun. O.K. Here we go upstairs. Whew, we made it! Did we lose anyone? The library is on our right at the head of the stairs.

Over in the corner to our right are saddle bags that saw a lot of use in their day. And we yelp because the car, van or truck won't hold enough! We go on from here to a wall of books, books and more books. All kinds of books including school books dating from way, way back. Look! Here's a "Roger Bean Comic Book", a must with young (and not so young) readers at that time. That column appeared in the Indianapolis Star. We would guess all the activity stopped until "Roger Bean" was read. For the subscribers of the Indianapolis News there was the column "Mutt and Jeff". There is a "Mutt and Jeff Comic Book" around here. Continuing along the same wall is a new census map of Hendricks County dated January 1, 1912. There's a picture of a Great Horned Owl on the south wall, and right beneath it is a large magazine or book rack. Here's a new magazine--or was in the 1950's. There is a book that shows one all the how-to of writing a fine Spencerian script. All are there in that rack.

In the window-well are two slates, an old school desk holding the Danville High School Class of 1908. Right next to that is a school marm all done up in her black skirt and white shirt-waist. On a high stool sits the keg that was fought over so furiously by the county's high school basket-ball teams. The keg was decorated by our own Florence (Griggs) Obenchain, then a Pittsboro High School student. Next is the megaphone used before we had a P.A. system.

Next on the wall we see a collection of school memorabilia and an issue (1944) of the old Brownsburg Record. Then comes the 1876 Atlas on a stand. Turn the corner. In the window-well is a snare drum that the owner played in John Philip Sousa's band. The drum is dated July 24, 1913. We see a child's drum dated Christmas 1908. It wouldn't take much stretch of the imagination to know there were many drum solos. One wonders if some of the older members of the family didn't threaten to have a word with Santa.



Here is a Salvation Army lassie's uniform. This old armchair was brought from the court-house and restored. It's mighty comfortable, just try it and see. Right beside the chair is a lighted display case that houses memorabilia of the Psi Chi Omega Sorority. The sorority is an organization of the old Central Normal College. Right above it is a large picture of the Class of 1923 of the Clayton High School. The class has held a reunion every year since its graduation. Wonderful! Another display case houses memorabilia of old Central Normal College and later Canterbury. Look at the hat rack right over the case! That ought to handle the tallest hat. We missed this one! Right past the doorway is a sectional book-case filled with books and other items. On top is a collection of paddles. Between them is a plaque from the old Brown Township Elementary School.

That about completes the tour. I may have missed a few things but this gives you some idea what it's like. Take it easy going down the stairs for we want you in good shape.

\*\*\*\*\*

Jewell

#### THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

(Contributed by Lois Crayton)

This story is about a woman who never lived in Hendricks County, but, we believe, she did walk across it. This was about 1839. It's quite possible that your great grandparents noticed her, perhaps on the dirt path or road that later became US 36. Who was she and where was she going?

Her name was Martha Kennedy. About three years earlier she and her husband had moved from Bourbon County, Kentucky to a location near Bainbridge, Indiana. The husband was a schoolteacher, as were their son and grandson later. The grandson, Millard Fillmore Kennedy, tells their story in a book, "Schoolmasters of Yesterday," published in 1940.

Word came that Martha's father in Kentucky had died, leaving her \$500 in cash, to be delivered only to Martha in person. There was a railroad to Madison, but no farther. They needed the money and felt that they could not afford the fare to Madison. So Martha walked the 250 miles, which took about three weeks, visited with the family a month, and walked back home.

Aware of the dangers and hardships she might encounter, Martha made herself moccasins, a squirrel-skin cap, and a leather pouch for money to be carried next to her body on the return trip. In a holster made into her cloak she carried a long, well sharpened skinning knife. She carried a suede bag containing money for traveling expenses. In her hand she carried a stout stick to ward off savage watchdogs.

At night she usually stopped at private homes, always offering to pay, but never being permitted to do so. Only two or three nights she stayed at hotels, which were renowned for indigestible food, tobacco spitting, and bedbugs. One night on the way back there were three hardfaced, sinister looking men at supper. In the night she heard them talking in low tones in the next room. Were they horse thieves? Were they plotting against her? She stayed awake all night, but nothing happened.

Back home, with the money hidden because there were no banks, there was a little excitement on a night when Martha's husband was on a business trip to

Crawfordsville. Bull, the dog, alerted Martha to the presence of marauders. She stepped outside and said "Take him, Bull." There were sounds of scuffling and cries of pain. Bull had deep cuts on his chest and shoulder. But the money and Martha were safe.

A glimpse of another hardy, strong pioneer woman, Lucinda Shirley Worrell, was told to me by her granddaughter, Helen Worrell Hadley of Clayton.

Lucinda and her husband, James Worrell, had three children: Charles, Albert, and Ella. Lucinda was determined that her children should have a college education. So she took a little apartment in Terre Haute and put all three in Indiana State. Helen's comment: "I don't think George (her husband) would have liked for me to do that."

Later, Lucinda started selling yard goods in the front room of the home in Clayton. Once when she went to the wholesale house in Indianapolis to buy supplies, she was refused. She was sure that her competitor in Clayton, who ran a general store, was responsible. So she boarded the train to Louisville and bought all she needed from the wholesale houses there.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### NEWS FROM PLAINFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY

During the last quarter of 1986, the construction and physical rearrangement of the Plainfield Public Library made great progress. Most of that time, the library remained open and served library users. At the same time materials were added to the local history collection, both by gift and by purchase.

In October the Plainfield Woman's Club donated three scrapbooks covering the years 1961-1986. The scrapbooks join others which have been given in the past by organizations such as the local Garden Club, PTA and Friends of the Library.

Among books which were purchased in October for the Historical Collection were Roberts' More Than You Promise (concerning the Studebaker Company), Vannest's Lincoln the Hoosier, and Nolan's The Iron Brigade.

Gifts in November included Recollections of Benjamin Franklin McGee by Morgan County Historian Becky Hardin, a Mooresville resident, Celebrating 150 years ... North Salem Christian Church (gift of the church), and Historic East College (DePauw), gift of Grace Cox.

One very special book on the list of acquisitions in November is a hymnbook published in 1902, "Primitive Baptist Hymn and Tune Book," by John R. Daily and E. W. Thomas. Thomas was from Danville and he and Daily are listed as publishers as well as authors of the 286-page book. The hymnal was one of many books left to the PPL local history collection by Miss Caroline Johnson of Plainfield, in her will.

December, the traditional month for gifts, brought the library a Putnam County, Indiana, 1845 tax list abstract from the Indiana State Library's Genealogy Division; a copy of Corinth Church's commemorative pageant, courtesy of Mary Ann Moore; and The Early Architecture of Madison, Indiana, by John Windle, compliments of the Indiana Historical Society.

Other additions during December were Davies' Street Cars and Interurbans of Yesteryear and Hoover's Magic Middletown, which concerns Muncie, Indiana. A copy



of Those Were the Days: Through the Seasons, the new book by Wendell Trogon, Indianapolis NEWS columnist and Morgan County resident, was also purchased.

This is merely a sampling of the new materials which the library has received in recent months. Librarian Susan Carter is always interested in learning of new/ (or old!) books or other printed materials which relate to Hendricks County and Indiana for possible inclusion in the local history collection. Gifts of materials or of money to purchase books are always welcome. Bequests of printed or manuscript Hendricks County materials may be left to the library by an individual.

All too often librarians or local history enthusiasts learn of materials valuable to the history of Hendricks County which were destroyed following the owner's death, because family members simply did not recognize their importance or did not know that they would be welcome gifts to the library's local history collection. By putting his or her wishes in writing in a will, an individual can assure that treasured pieces of Hendricks County's history will be preserved in the Plainfield Public Library rather than destroyed forever in a bonfire or landfill.

Interested persons may contact Susan Carter at 839-6602. The Plainfield Public Library is located at 1120 Stafford Road, the corner of Stafford and Simmons Street.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### MARION AND HENDRICKS COUNTIES AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETIES

Just when winter seems most dreary, a trip to the mailbox brings that harbinger of spring, the seed catalog! Just the thought of "plantin' time" brings color to the winter complexion, the following transcript of a joint meeting of the Marion County and Hendricks County Agricultural and Horticultural Societies may bring us some relief from the winter blues. It was contributed by Jay Small, of Indianapolis.

Cartersburg July 25, 1884. The Marion Co. A. & H. Society met in joint session with the Hendricks Co. Horticultural & Agricultural Society at the residence of Daniel Cox. The forenoon was pleasantly passed in viewing the premises. The observation showed Mr. Cox to be a progressive farmer, fully abreast of the times. His idea is that the farmer should get as much enjoyment as possible out of his pursuit while he is trying to make it profitable. All the surroundings bespeak thrift and good judgement. The meeting was called to order at 11:00, President Johnson in the chair.

The minutes of the Hendricks County Society were not present. Mr. Kingsbury, Essayist, gave an interesting paper on California, which elicited much interest and led to many inquiries and discussion, after which adjournment was had for dinner which was spread under the trees in a beautiful grove upon the creeks bank.

At 1:25 the exercises were resumed and Dr. Furnas gave one of his characteristic talks--subject: manufacture of can syrups and sugar. He referred to the youthfulness of the business and the lack of definite experimental knowledge as to the best processes. He believed that cane manufacturing was designed in the near future to be a grand success, but would not advise the immediate investment of capital -- thought parties would better wait a year or two when much more will be known concerning the process of manufacture.

Mr. Anderson of Ladoga discussed the subject further--thought any sensible man could make money in the business. A great deal depends upon the purification. He makes a syrup that outsells the famous "silver drips" of the southern states. Lime will make a pure syrup but is dark--Bisulphate of lime will bleach the syrup, making a beautiful golden colored syrup.

Mrs. Adams then read a paper on the Duties of Women as Mistresses of the Household which was ordered published in the Indiana Farmer. Miss Ida Richardson next followed with an able and exhaustive paper on what may be "Done of a Neighborhood". She recommended that the more favored members of the neighborhood should work for the improvement of their neighbors socially and morally. They can do this by 1st, to bring the neighbors together, 2nd, encouraging Literary Societies, tree planting, etc.

Miscellaneous: A member made inquiries as to the "Grape Rot". The discussion brought out the fact that there is no known remedy. Covering vines with boards or muslin, close thinning, sowing oats, hanging vessels of sweetened water in the vines were all recommended by all had been tried and failed. Mr. Cox said a German trained his vines fanned shape on trellis, first the vine ascending then descending. He had never known the grapes to rot on the descending portions. On the table were shown several blackberry vines of the Snyder variety literally loaded with berries. Stones Hardy was also exhibited.

The Hendricks County members nominated Mr. Scarce for State Fish Commissioner.

After some appropriate remarks by the president the society adjourned.

Sylvester Johnson, Pres.

W. B. Flick, Sec.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### VANDALISM AT EAST CEMETERY

A neglected gravestone in an abandoned cemetery is a sad sight, but sadder still is the sight of a gravestone that has fallen victim to vandals. Multiply that feeling a hundred times and you will know the emotion felt by those who visited the Danville East Cemetery last October. Stones had been toppled by the score, many broken by the impact. The local newspapers featured the story, with photographs of the fallen stones. Students from the nearby Junior High School volunteered to straighten some of the stones, but most were too heavy to be lifted without the aid of a crane.

Two juveniles were arrested and sentenced for the vandalism. The youths only admitted to damaging about 40 stones, so the court levied an appropriate fine; however, it is doubtful whether the families of the youths will be able to pay the fine. The fictims' assistance fund set up by Judge Boles provided a substantial amount of money towards the restoration of the stones by a professional monument dealer. But more money will be needed and the Cemetery's maintenance fund cannot make up the difference. Anyone interested in contributing to the restoration of the tombstones can send their donations to Mrs. Edward Etienne, 197 East Broadway, Danville, IN 46122. Checks should be made payable to: Danville East Cemetery.

\*\*\*\*\*

Members of the Hendricks County Historical Society were present at the hearing at which the juveniles were sentenced for vandalizing the East Cemetery. At one point, one youth was asked if he knew any of the people whose stones he knocked over. He replied that he did not. Perhaps he should have read the inscription on one particular stone at the East Cemetery. Columbus Bogart was a



native of Tennessee who served in the Union Army during the Civil War. He became ill during the war and came north to recuperate at the home of a relative, Jacob K. Moore, of Danville. He died April 11, 1863, and was buried in the East Cemetery, far from his native home. On his stone is the inscription, "Love ye therefore the stranger".

\*\*\*\*\*

Mr. Jerry Hankins is undoubtedly one of the finest history teachers around. He has spoken to our society and his enthusiasm for his subject is contagious. This article appeared last week in THE PLAINFIELD MESSENGER:

#### Hankins' History Students Learn To Wander Indiana

PLAINFIELD - Wandering Indiana is an assignment for the students in Jerry Hankins' Indiana History class at the Plainfield High School, which is one of only three high schools in the state to offer a full semester of history in Indiana.

Having students visit spots around the state, and especially in the county and in Plainfield, is a "good way to bring it (history) home," Hankins, who is the history department chairman, said.

A bulletin board in his class, which is empty at the beginning of the semester, becomes covered with about 350 pictures of his students at locations where history happened in the state, he said.

The students must be in the pictures themselves, he added; otherwise, the same pictures would be passed down in the families from older brothers and sisters who have already taken the class.

History is everywhere, Hankins said. Anything that happened in American history has its counterpart in Indiana. Covered wagons crossed the state's fields; pioneers came and carved out a home from the wilderness and many soldiers from Indiana fought in battles for the War of 1812 and the American Revolution.

The class is a way to "sample American history by sampling Indiana history," he said.

And it is more real to the kids than something just memorized out of a book.

"You can talk about a thing, and the kids can go and see it," Hankins said.

One of the bits of history he tells the students about happened in Stilesville. In 1849, 15 passengers traveling through the town in a wagon train died from bad food. Their bodies are buried in the Stilesville cemetery and headstones still mark the graves today.

Hankins has many pictures of students standing by the stones on his bulletin board, as he has every semester.

And right here in Plainfield, the kids can go to see the plaque that stands where the Van Buren Elm used to be. Under the elm, a former United States President was dumped in the mud in 1842 as a joke by people who didn't like his policy on the National Road.

After his immaculate breeches and broadcloth jacket were covered with slimy

mud, President Martin Van Buren went to an inn to get cleaned up. The inn was at the corner where the police station stands now.

The elm, which was in the Plainfield Friends Church yard, was almost destroyed by a tornado in 1923. It later had to be removed.

Another assignment Hankins gives his students is to visit the Plainfield Public Library and do research on local history.

He takes the class to the library for two reasons, Hankins said. One is to let the students see how much history there is to be learned at the library, and the other is to just get the kids into the library.

Many of them have never been in the library before he takes them.

"Kids need to know that a library is a wonderful place," he said.

Of the 25 students he takes on the field trip, 20 think of the library visit as a way to get out of the classroom; five will go back to the library on their own and three will get something valuable out of it, he estimates.

Hankins "takes the kids up there (to the library) and gets their feet wet and hopes they'll go back and swim," he said.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### NOTICE

A newsletter titled NORTHINGTON DESCENDANTS, covering all branches of the NORTHINGTON surname and its allied lineages. The newsletter has a free query column, is published quarterly at a cost of \$12.00 yearly. Contact Frances Brengle, 6619 Pheasant Rd., Baltimore, MD 21220.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### HOOSIER BOOK PUBLISHED TO MARK U. S. CONSTITUTION

The INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY will mark the bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution with a new book based on significant Indiana legal cases.

The 136-page book, which sells for \$4.00 comprises lectures delivered during the Indiana Association of Historians' observance of the Constitutional bicentennial.

People interested in obtaining a copy can contact the historical society at (317) 232-1882.

\*\*\*\*\*

We read much recently about U F O's. The most recent sightings occurred over Alaska. It is rumored that many of these happenings are not reported in the news because, for some reason, the U. S. Government has chosen to keep a cap on the reports. We do know, however, that unidentified phenomena are not new, a fact borne out by this "old" document unearthed by the Castetters of Plainfield:



UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT: 1620 VERSION

The following report is taken from a newspaper of 1620, written and edited by the Sioux Nation Wire Service and found in an old General Custer saddlebag:

A huge Unidentified Sea Object (USO) has been sighted off shore in the Big Sea Waters, according to Iroquois reporters, who state that it is shaped like a gigantic birchbark canoe, but moves without the aid of oars.

The Indians in the area believe the object is from another world and is directed by men and women who have been seen rowing back and forth between the USO and shore.

They have shining faces and dress in ornate black and white clothing, according to reports. Their moccasins are shiny black and make a lot of noise when the USO beings walk through the woods.

One Indian, Laughing Boy, even claims to have spoken to the strange beings and says they took him aboard the USO where he was shown complex mechanical devices and weird charts of unknown lands and waters.

Laughing Boy reports that the beings speak a strange corruption of Indian language, formed by adding "um" or "em" to ordinary words. "You-um taken to chief", he quoted one of the beings as saying.

He told reporters that the USO is moved by the wind, a force which modern Indians have not been able to harness. The USO, he added, is made of great pieces of whole trees and shaped by tomahawks constructed of a type of shiny stone which is break-proof and will not chip.

Panic ran through some Indian communities when the USO first was sighted. Some of the elders suggested that the USO might have come merely to make friends, but they were shouted down at council.

The Iroquois Big Sea Council has investigated the matter and examined all reports. Its conclusion is that the USO probably is either a hallucination, or a water spout spotted by untrained observers.

"There are no reports of USOs in our files which cannot be explained by natural phenomenon," the Council said in a statement.

Laughing Boy's family said he had been drinking firewater before he took his alleged trip to the USO. The family then took him into seclusion and refused to allow reporters to interview him.

The big USO report is not the first from the Big Sea Water shores. About 125 years ago there was a report that three USO appeared off the shore and put canoes ashore. They carried the strange markings, Nina, Pinta, Santa Maria, the Indians said. Even before that a USO was reported which contained a man who claimed to have come from the mythical land of Norway.

"We get these reports all the time," said a spokesman for the Big Sea Council. "There's absolutely no foundation in them."

\*\*\*\*\*

LUCILLE STAMPER IS COMPILING A SCRAP BOOK ON THE OLD BROWN SCHOOL. IF ANY ONE HAS INFORMATION CONCERNING THE OLD ONE-ROOM SCHOOL, PLEASE CONTACT LUCILLE AT 745-2129 OR WRITER HER AT 9 TODD TERRACE, DANVILLE 46122.

\*\*\*\*\*

Most of us can remember the beloved Wayne Guthrie whose column RINGSIDE IN HOOSIERLAND appeared in THE INDIANAPOLIS NEWS for many years. The following article will bring back memories for some of us.

LYE SOAP MAKING WAS SOME JOB

Do you recall ever seeing home-made lye soap being made?

If you do you never could forget it because that process entailed not only careful preparation but diligent, hard work.

And what soap it was! Strong? Folks used to say it would take the hair off any hide or pelt.

"It would strip a feather," is the succinct way Edna Cooper, Clayton, remembered it and reminisced about some old-time customs and practices.

"Who remembers the ash hopper that was used to run off the lye for that soap making?" she asked as she described the huge hoghead or barrel into which the wood ashes from the fireplace and cooking and heating stoves were put.

Nobody wasted a single wood ash then. In fact some of the larger pieces that had not been consumed by fire but remained as charcoal were fed to the hogs. They relished them, too.

Mrs. Cooper recalled the details of the hopper, how the clapboards, 4 to 6 inches high, were placed at an angling position, down into the hopper.

The ashes were poured into the huge hoghead or barrel, preferably until it was full. Then a hole was rounded out in the top of the ashes. Into that hole the folks kept pouring water.

Likewise a similar hole was rounded out at the bottom so that the water which passed down and through the ashes and emerged as lye could be run off into a large kettle by way of a trough.

She said she had helped fill the barrel with ashes many a time and, also, had poured water into the hole at the top.

At times when water or ashes were not being put in the contained it was kept covered by a removable cover.

The emerging lye was dipped into a larger kettle and boiled over an open fire until it was as strong as all get out.

Then meat scraps or cracklings from the home butchering or scraps saved



during the winter were put into the lye and cooked. It was stirred as it cooked until it looked like soap.

"If grease appeared on the top of the boiling contents more lye was needed," she added.

"My mother always made our own soap. She filled small barrels with it. This was used for washing clothes or dishes or almost any way soap was used.

"The last I heard of lye soap in the country was when a doctor bought some for his own use. He was a specialist."

Those girlhood days were the ones where their milk products were cared for in a brick milk house which was just outside the kitchen and was dug out of the ground a foot or two.

By means of a trough that passed through it cold water was circulated around and between the containers that held the perishable produce.

And, of course, there was what was called the apple house in which fruits, both canned or raw, were kept through the winter. Included, also, were potatoes. Who can forget--too frequently for the youngsters--having to climb into the cramped shelves and bins to pull off the sprouts. How children dreaded to "sprout" potatoes.

Her folks also buried apples and other fruits and vegetables in the garden. From these mounds they would fetch forth articles to cook during the winter, always making sure the opening was covered well afterward.

Folks then raised most of their provisions--fruit, vegetables, meat and milk products--and bought only the necessities.

Coffee could be bought for 10 cents a pound.

"We loved to get the cards our grandmother gave us from the Lion coffee."

Incidentally, who remembers when folks cut out the lion heads from packages of that brand and saved them to be redeemed for prizes later? The same went, too, for Arbuckle coffee.

\*\*\*\*\*

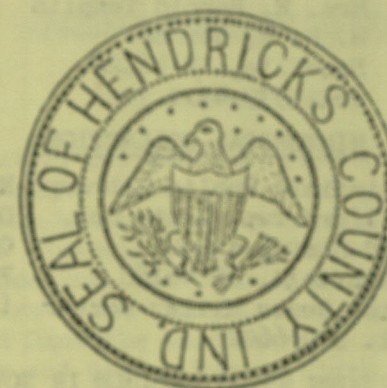


HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
BOX 128  
DANVILLE, IN 46122

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U. S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
DANVILLE, IN  
PERMIT #303

# HENDRICKS COUNTY

## HISTORY BULLETIN



VOLUME XVIII MAY 1987 NUMBER II  
PUBLISHED BY  
THE HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
DANVILLE, INDIANA



HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

ORGANIZED 1967

OFFICERS 1987

PRESIDENT

Betty Bartley  
1223 S 450 W  
Danville, IN 46122  
Tel. 745-2828

VICE PRESIDENT

Miss Libbe Hughes  
85 Cartersburg Road  
Danville, IN 46122  
Tel. 745-4833

SECRETARY

Miss Jewell Bell  
212 East Road 200 N  
Danville, IN 46122  
Tel. 745-4055

TREASURER

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

HISTORIAN

Janet Woodrum  
R R 1, Box 28  
Linton, Indiana 46149  
Tel. 994-5759

PUBLICITY

Miss Jewell Bell  
212 East Road 200 N  
Danville, IN 46122  
Tel. 745-4055

GENEALOGISTS

Miss Grace Cox  
494 West Clinton St.  
Danville, IN 46122  
Tel. 745-2552

Mrs. Roy Pritchard  
R. R. 1, Box 454  
Clayton, IN 46118  
Tel. 539-6890

Mrs. Roy Fisher  
Pittsboro, IN 46167  
Tel. 892-4780

Mrs. H. Harold Templin  
R. R. 2, Box 86  
Danville, IN 46122  
Tel. 539-4311

HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS

Danville Public Library  
101 S. Indiana  
Danville, IN 46122  
Attention: Lori Wynn  
Tel. 745-2604

Plainfield Public Library  
Guilford Twp. Hist. Col.  
1120 Stafford Rd.  
Plainfield, IN 46168  
Attn: Susan Miller Carter  
Tel. 839-6602

Hendricks County Hist. Museum  
Danville, IN 46122  
Open Tues & Sat 1 - 4 P.M.  
For further information call  
(317) 745-4055 or 852-2810

ANNUAL DUES \$3.00 PAYABLE IN NOVEMBER

\*\*\*\*\*

The Hendricks County Historical Bulletin is published quarterly in February, May, August and November. It is distributed without charge to members of the Society and to Hendricks County School Libraries. Individual copies of \$2.00 Communications concerning back copies or individual copies should be addressed to our secretary. Contributions or suggestions to The Bulletin should be mailed to the editor.

Margaret Baker  
(Mrs. C. Rawleigh Baker)  
9 Round Hill Road  
Danville, IN 46122  
Tel. 745-2115

"I've learned in my work that the values of society are derived from its connectedness to history. If history dies, we lose our sense of the past being alive."

Bill Moyers, journalist and commentator for CBS News

HCBS HCBS HCBS HCBS HCBS HCBS

GREETINGS FROM OUR VICE PRESIDENT

We are in the midst of our 20th anniversary and it is time to give ourselves a quiet round of applause. We've had a very successful "beginning" with the publication of a county history, reproduction of other county-related items, sponsorship of an outstanding museum, and the quarterly production of Bulletins and programs that could be the envy of almost any other historical society.

Our members should take a great deal of satisfaction in knowing that we have had an effect on Hendricks county as evidenced by our excellent book sales and growing membership. The Museum is being utilized by our area schools and children and adults alike are developing an appreciation of the past. We are all responsible for the increased awareness of our county's history among area residents.

Yes, we've had a great beginning! But there are countless generations to follow and we must strive to benefit them all. The passage of time just makes our work more difficult so your ideas and continued efforts are needed today! Let's prepare to provide another 20 years of devoted service to Hendricks county!

Libbe

\*\*\*\*\*

FEBRUARY MEETING

A fine group (approximately 55) gathered Feb. 1 in the Circuit Court Room of the Hendricks County Court House. After the usual preliminaries, reports and remarks, Libbe Hughes, program chairman, presented Judge Jeffrey Boles, who gave us an interesting update on the historic mural which hangs in the Court Room. Judge Boles, at an earlier meeting, had told us about the painting but since that time, he has learned much more about the painter, Edgar Alvin Payne when Mr. Payne's daughter visited Danville last summer. Since the painting has to do with the Northwest Territory and George Rogers Clark, Judge Boles gave us quite a history lesson.

After a lively question and answer period, the group adjourned to the Jury Room where they enjoyed a beautiful birthday cake marking our Society's 20th year.

\*\*\*\*\*

May 3, 1987

Our May meeting promises to be an exciting departure from our usual meetings when we go to the ROYAL PICTURESHOW AND PLAYHOUSE in Danville (no admission charged) to see a pageant written and produced by Mary Ann Moore. A DAY IN THE LIFE OF THE SHERIFF AND HIS WIFE 100 YEARS AGO, the lengthy title, gives us good hints about the subject of the program. Who was the sheriff in 1887? Ira Chase or William Ayres? Which one was a well known local minister who kept a journal? How many prisoners did the jail have during 1887? To get the answers to these questions and learn the story of a would-be murderer, four young rascals and two pretty teen-agers, come to the show on the east side of the square in Danville, May 3rd at 2:00 p.m. Mr. Bob Keller, owner of the ROYAL, has been kind enough to lend us the use of the stage for the pageant.



# MUSINGS AT THE MUSEUM

The museum had several visitors this past winter, school groups, clubs and individual visitors. Some of our visitors were from out of town, and we had one from London, England.

We have received a variety of items. We noticed a W.W.II army overcoat and an Eisenhower jacket. Those are remembered by many. A hand-made purse, and a large collection of hats were received. Those will complete many costumes for our models. We have a large engraved family Bible, we well as pamphlets and a big collection of almanacs from various companies ranging down through the years from 1876 to 1901. All these things tell how life was lived back then.

The flower bed is greeting the spring with tulips. The Hendricks County Garden Club will surprise us with some pretty annuals later on.

Jewell

HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS

## QUERIES

STARBUCK, HARVEY and HUNT FAMILIES in late 1800's or earlier.

Mrs. Thurza McClintock, 959 Oregon Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94303 (415) 856-0469

JOHN V. HADLEY and wife MARY JANE HILL HADLEY, interested in viewing photographs of couple while JOHN V. served in 7th Ind. Vol. Inf. Any charges paid promptly. Paul M. Brummell, 912 Duxoury Ct., Michigan City, IN 46360

COLEMAN, LEVI 1870 census show he was 45 years old. Others listed Elizabeth, 23, keeping house; William H. (my line) 14 years old, and Ida, age 3 Mildred Uland, R 3, Box 194, Bloomfield, IN 47424

HEDGE, ANDERSON AND LEAH DODD HEDGE m. in Hendricks County 1846 At least one son had children and one daughter, who married a Ridpath, had children. Donna Dodd Black, 21632 E. Highbluff Rd., Diamond Bar, CA 91765

ROSS, JOHN S. and REBECCA Rebecca died 9-25-1882, buried Dickerson Cemetery. Their children: James, L. m. Malinda Arrington, Elizabeth Medaugh, Harriett Hedges, Mary m. Harrell ? and George VanWinkle. Daughter Rebecca m. John W. Cummings and Beach ? Mattie m. Robert Hollowell. John R. Ross, Box 154, Brockwell, Ark. 72517

THE NAMES OF THOSE WHO DID NOT RENEW THEIR MEMBERSHIPS THIS YEAR HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM OUR MAILING LIST. IF YOU DIDN'T RECEIVE A BULLETIN, CHECK WITH JEWELL TO SEE IF YOU ARE PAID UP.

## NOTICE

CHEW FAMILY ... a newsletter concerning all branches of the CHEW surname and its allied lineage. Published quarterly \$15.00 yearly. Contact Frances Brengle, 6619 Pheasant Rd., Baltimore, MD 21220

## THE FIRST HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

by Jewell Bell

Along about the close of World War I there were new values surfacing. The "Roaring Twenties" boisterously made their appearance. Among other things to appear at that time were the new ideas concerning lifestyles. Possessions held dear down through the years were no longer acceptable by the younger generation, as well as some of the older generation wanting to be modern. Nothing was acceptable unless it was brand new, the latest style, and bright and shiny. We'd hear: "But that's so old-fashioned!" "Out of style!" "What do you want to keep that for?" "Junk!!" "Be smart, modernize!" A lot of things were changing. Manners were becoming old hat, at least according to the older people.

Then came the Centennial! It was fitting and proper to celebrate the one hundredth birthday of our county and community leaders began to do something about it. In their search for memorabilia, they found many people who exhibited their treasures proudly.

We came across this item taken from the "Danville Gazette", in the November 6, 1924 edition:

"On the evening of November 11, at 7:00, there will be held in the assembly room of the court house a meeting for the purpose of organizing a Hendricks County Historical Association. Dr. Coleman, director of the Indiana Historical Commission, will be present to explain the matter.

"Hendricks County should have such an organization. The majority of the counties in the state are already organized."

"All persons proud of the splended historical past of the county, of its present standing, and of the preservation of this record should attend this organization meeting. The meeting is open to the public."

These are the minutes of the first meeting as they were written:

"The organization meeting of the Hendricks County Historical Society was held in the Assembly Room of the Court House on the evening of November 11th. 1924. Dr. Christopher B. Coleman, Director of the Indiana Historical Commission, was present and explained the matter of organizing county societies. He explained the fine work being done by similar organizations over the state and pointed out the need of such an organization in Hendricks County. After Mr. Coleman's talk the following officers were elected to serve for one year:

Thad S. Adams, president  
George H. Reitzel, first vice-president.  
Mrs. Julian D. Hote, second vice-president.  
Fred E. Brengle, secretary-treasurer.



Mr. Adams then took the chair and proceeded with the matter of perfecting the organization. A tentative constitution was read by Mr. Brengle to which several objections were made. On motion of Mr. Gulley, the President appointed a committee of three, consisting of Mr. Hogate, Mr. Gulley and Mr. Brengle to prepare a constitution to be presented at the next meeting of the society. On motion of Mr. Hogate, the date of the next meeting was set for the evening of Dec. 9, (Tuesday) 1924. The matter of building up the membership was then taken up.

The county was divided among certain persons:

Mrs. Osborn was given Washington and Guilford Townships.

Mrs. Julian D. Hogate was given Liberty.

Roscoe Leak, Union and Middle.

O. E. Gulley, Eel River.

Mrs. F. H. Ryner, Marion.

George H. Reitzel, Lincoln and Brown.

Mrs. Ella Hadley Gambold, Clay.,

Mrs. Charles Robards, Franklin.

Mr. Adams, Center.

The meeting then adjourned. Thad S. Adams, pres., Fred E. Brengle, Sec'y."

The following are excerpts of the minutes down through the years:

Tuesday, Dec. 9, 1924

The president asked for a report on the Constitution but the chairman said nothing had been done.

Reports from township leaders indicated that the people they had talked with liked the idea. Several of the committee were absent.

There was a demand for a museum room growing out of the county centennial celebration. A motion was made to contact the county commissioners to get them to set aside a room for a museum. A committee was appointed. A motion carried to make the annual dues \$1.

A motion carried to leave the charter memberships open until the second Tuesday in April.

The group discussed subjects to be used for future programs.

Tuesday, Feb. 10, 1925

The museum room committee had seen the commissioners and they seemed favorable to the idea and they would look into it.

A paper, "The First Ten Years' History of Hendricks County", brought comments from a few saying that they knew or knew of some of the people mentioned.

Tuesday, Apr. 17, 1925

The Constitution was not ready yet. The museum committee was not ready to make a report.

Mrs. Julian Hogate read a paper on the early history of the churches in the county exclusive of the Friends. Mrs. A. J. Wilson read a paper on the early history of the Friends Church in the county. Two very capable speakers!

As we read in the minutes during the society's entire span, papers concerning families, churches, schools, roads, etc., were prepared but were usually read by a person other than the preparer.

At the June 1926 meeting they chose this slate of officers: Pres. Mr. Roscoe Leak; V. Pres. Mrs. A. J. Wilson; Sec'y-Treas. Mrs. W. T. Lawson. (here we notice that only one vice president was elected.) The program committee consisted of: Mrs. A. J. Wilson, Mrs. E. M. Blessing, Miss Ruth Adams, Mrs. O. T. Scamahorn, and Mr. Hogate. The museum committee consisted of: Mr. Thad Adams, Chairman, Miss Sadie Cook, Sec'y., Dr. Trotter, Mr. Lannes McPhetridge, Mrs. Spangler, Mrs. Oren Osborn, Mrs. Scamahorn, Mrs. Will Evans, Mrs. Charles Shields, Dr. Ragan, Mr. C. M. Hobbs, and Mr. James C. Morgan.

Before we proceed with the review of the minutes, let's read the clipping taken from "The Republican" Nov. 13, 1924.

"Some such organization was forecast when the court house was built, as a historical room was built and has since been awaiting use. While Hendricks County, because of its geography, was out of the line of many of the great early movements in relation to the Indians and foreign countries, there is no lack of material on which to work.

When and under what circumstance did the Indians pass title to the land in the county?

Under what, if any, foreign flags has the territory of Hendricks county been governed?

Were there ever any underground railroad routes through Hendricks county?

What is the story of the National road through the county?

What of the trail that led to the land office at Crawfordsville?

There are many other subjects for valuable papers that should be written and preserved. To have these things done is the mission of a historical society. It is a labor of local patriotism. The work will be of increasing value through the years."

A letter from Mr. Hogate told that the commissioners had given the north-west room on the third floor of the court house for the museum. The society's next meeting on Aug. 16, 1926 was held in the museum, as were the rest of the meetings. At a later meeting it was discussed that no one else should be allowed to hold meetings in the museum.

Thad Adams was appointed custodian, and later named curator of the museum.

Again they appealed to the commissioners for a name-plate for the museum door like all the others of the court house had. A later meeting revealed that the commissioners consented to obtain a name plate for the door.

There was an account that the last known minutes recorded were September 13, 1928.



## "McGUFFEY NIGHT AT HISTORICAL WEST"

"Turning back the clock some fifty or sixty years was the miracle performed at the meeting of the County Historical Society, Tuesday evening, in the club room at the court house. Memories of days long ago were stirred. The old readers used in schools by some and read by probably all present in their younger days that had almost been forgotten. It was McGuffey night and the most was made of it.

Allen J. Wilson, president, presided and there were much fun and pathos as the program was given.

The exercise started with Miss Daisy Howell singing "School Days", the audience joining in the chorus. Miss Howell was accompanied by Mrs. W. T. Lawson on the zither. During the song, six "school girls" garbed as in the olden days entered the room--Mrs. Walter Eastes, Mrs. O. E. Nichols, Miss Sadie Cook, Mrs. Anna Edwards, Miss Lizzie Anderson and Mrs. A. J. Wilson filed in and took seats.

Roscoe Leak, of Union township gave a comprehensive sketch of the life of William H. McGuffey. Miss Martha Searce told of the "Humor and Pathos of McGuffey Readers", showing how the sad and pathetic were dominant notes in the selections. Her explanation was that in those days people thought more of serious things, of life and death and the problems of existence.

James W. Beck recited "The Young Soldier," and admitted that the first time he had recited it was at school in 1859. Miss Eva Harper, of Union township, gave the ever-popular "The Spider and the Fly".

Miss Shiela Smith, accompanied by her mother on the piano, very prettily sang "Tittle Tattle Tell-tale", and then Thad S. Adams conducted a lesson in Metaphysics, with Miss Daisy Howell.

Miss Nellie Storm recited another old favorite which has come down to this generation, "The Boy Stood on the Burning Deck." Then followed a typical reading class composed of the six ladies who had entered in a body. This was just about true to life, older visitors said. The conclusion was an old-time Friday afternoon school program.

With Miss Pearl Hadley as leader the capitals were chanted, commencing "Augusta, Maine, on the Kennebec river." With John Airhart as the lad, he and J.S. Marshall gave the old favorite, "Alexander the Great." Mrs. Emma Tinder Flinn read another, "Genevra." Prof. N. E. Winfrey read that tongue twister, "How the Water Comes Down from Ladore." With the reading of "We Are Seven", by Julian D. Hogate, the formal program ended.

Such interest was aroused that there was strong sentiment for another McGuffey evening. A letter from John W. Cravens, registrar of Indiana university, told that a grandson of William B. McGuffey is on the faculty of the university. He is Prof. Hepburn, of the School of Law, and, "Mr. Cravens wrote, has many interesting stories of his grandfather.

On invitation from the Parke County society asking that the local organization name two delegates to confer over a joint session of the societies of the Fifth district resulted in the appointment of Roscoe Leak and Thad S. Adams as a committee. Adjournment was had to November 13."

The program just given was used as the minutes of the September meeting. Papers folded inside the secretary's book show notes for minutes never recorded. There were notes for minutes for Nov. 13, 1928, and Dec. 16, 1930. Another was Oct. 11, but no year given, and a decision to have next meeting on Nov. 29 but no year was mentioned.

No mention was ever made of completing the constitution.

According to the number given in the records, the first society had 14 charter members. They include: Thad S. Adams, Danville, Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Blessing, Danville, Mr. and Mrs. Fred E. Brengle, Danville, Mr. O. E. Gulley, Danville, E. G. Hadley, Danville, Mr. and Mrs. Julian D. Hogate, Danville, Mr. Roscoe Leak, Liston, Mrs. W. C. Osborn, Danville, Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Ryner, Coatesville, and Margaret L. Shuler, Indianapolis.

Members of the Society who came in later included: Mrs. Roscoe Leak, Liston, Dr. C. M. Trotter, North Salem, Mrs. Grace Duckworth, North Salem, Albert Barlow, Plainfield, Granville Leach, Liston, Dr. and Mrs. W. T. Lawson, Danville, Miss Vera Noland, North Salem, George Huber, Liston, Charles Z. Cook, Danville, Ruth Adams, Danville, Mrs. M. C. Keeney, Danville, George H. Reitzel, Danville, Miss Eva Harper, Liston, Mrs. H. C. Spangler, Liston, Mr. C. W. Hobbs, Plainfield, Miss Martha Searce, Danville, Mrs. A. J. Wilson, Danville, Mr. James Beck, Danville, Miss Lulu Huron, Danville, and Miss Elizabeth Anderson, Danville.

(Information taken from the Hendricks County Historical Society secretary book 1924 - 28 and also from the DANVILLE GAZETTE and the HENDRICKS COUNTY REPUBLICAN.)

Our present society reorganized in July 1967 and extended its charter membership to include the October 1967 meeting. According to the records, the society had 62 charter members. There are 27 with us today.

Charter members today include: Margaret Baker, Jewell Bell, Virginia Joseph, Dorothy Templin, Blanche Wean, Lucille and Owen Stamper, Leona Stuart and Maxwell Lee, Danville; Virginia Cummings, Margaret and Floyd Hufford, Brownsburg; Ondah Evans, Frances Fisher, Mary Jeanette Winkelmann, and Chester Parker, Pittsboro; John Gambold, Jr. Coatesville; Millie and Scott Hosier, Jay Small, Indianapolis; Carolyn Kellum, Ida Mae and John Miller, Plainfield; Ruth Pritchard, Clayton; Darlene Lynch, Monticello, formerly of Brownsburg; Helen and Howard Roth, formerly of Brownsburg.

Jewell Bell

## BILL MOYERS SPEAKS

Speaking at Washington University, St. Louis, MO., Bill Moyers, journalist and commentator for CBS News, said, in part:

"As a journalist I'm engaged in a continuing course in adult education at somebody else's expense. And I've learned in my work that the values of a society are derived from its connectedness to history. If history dies, we lose our sense of the past being alive.

"But you learn when you look back that although there is trouble in the world, there is also honor. And people of conscience, and moments of such great beauty and vision that they transcend the struggle. And you learn that nothing you are



likely to face in your generation, not even the existence of nuclear weapons, requires more courage of you than was required of your parents and grandparents.

"When I finished my graduate study at the University of Edinburgh, my wife and I, thirty years ago, roamed through the ruins of many of the old churches of England and Scotland. There, beginning to peel on the side of the ruins of a church, was a little plaque that stopped me in my tracks like the onrush of a train. I wrote down what it said, and remember it to this day: 'In the year 1653, when all things sacred in the kingdom had been either profaned or demolished, this church was built by Sir Richard Shirley, whose singular duty it was to do the best of things in the worst of times.'" So may we all.

From the Washington University Magazine, August, 1986.

(Contributed by Lois Crayton)

#### LETTER FROM THE PAST

Mr. Enas Hadley, Plainfield, Ind.

March the 1864  
Camp Glierson near Memphis, Tenn.

Mr. Hadley, I seat myself this morning to write you a few lines to inform you that I am well and harty and I hope these few lines may find you al well Well, Enas, we have been on a big raid down in Missipi since I wrote to you before I wrote to you before we left Cooliersville. we left there the 16th of January and got back the 20 of Febary and I havent Received any answer yet John and me sent \$60 Dollars to you and I want yo to write and tell me whether yo received it or not well Enas I can say that whe have binn in one fight Well Enas whe are living as hapy as whe have new tents and they are making out the pay rools whe will git the pay in a day or to and when I git i I to Send it to yo and yo must write and tell me whether yo git it ot not Well I giss that I will close for this time Write Soon as yo git this leter from yore friend, Wm H Gay to Enas Hadley yo must still rite and direct yore leters to Co G Hndqrs of Meemphis

Give my best Respts to William and Hastings Hadley

W H Gay

(Contributed by Florence Collier)

#### DON'T THROW OUT THE 'JUNK'

The above is the title of an article appearing in the Feb. 10, 1987 issue of the INDIANAPOLIS NEWS written by Bonnie Harris, a NEWS editorial writer, who tells the story of Darlene Clark Hine, associate professor of history at Purdue University, and her collection of memorabilia concerning black women. Her final product is THE BLACK WOMEN IN THE MIDDLE WEST PROJECT: A COMPREHENSIVE RESOURCE GUIDE. I quote Bonnie Harris:

The guide tells its readers where to find the collected information about black women in Indiana and Illinois. It also records three accounts of oral history delivered at project workshops. One of those speakers was Cassie Swarn, a resident of Plainfield, Ind.

She told of her grandfather Swarn who had been a slave in North Carolina. He married a slave from the neighboring plantation, gained his freedom and moved to Plainfield. "The Quakers saw that he had a place to live. Shortly after he came there, his wife died and left him with seven children. He worked for 50 cents a day for other farmers and raised his children," she recalled.

Cassie married one of those children. "I found that to help my husband along and to keep our family steady I had to take any type of job I could get. . . So I just got around there and scrubbed the kitchens and cooked the food and served the parties . . . as I'd go out in the dining room to take the people's plates and to gather up the glasses and things -- they'd be talking and everything, especially the Women's Club, the oldest club in Plainfield, and the Friday Club, and all of these clubs you know, would have me come -- and I said to myself, 'Someday I'm going to be sitting out at this table and you are going to be helping to serve me.'"

Today, Cassie belongs to the Women's Club. She also is a painter and has been honored as Plainfield's Guiding Light and Most Distinguished Citizen. And her story is a written part of Indiana history.

Most of us know that Cassie is an active member of the Hendricks County Historical Society and has given us some fine programs.

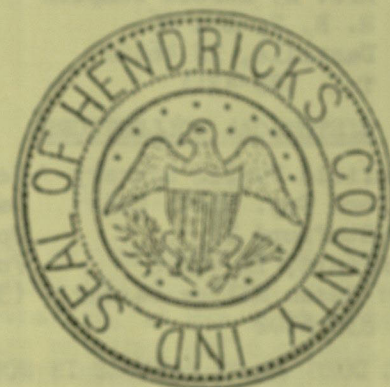






# HENDRICKS COUNTY

## HISTORY BULLETIN



VOLUME XVIII NUMBER III

AUGUST 1987

PUBLISHED BY

THE HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DANVILLE, INDIANA

HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
BOX 128  
DANVILLE, IN 46122

Patricia Cox  
310 Urban  
Danville IN 46122

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U. S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
DANVILLE, IN  
PERMIT #303



HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

ORGANIZED 1967

OFFICERS 1987

PRESIDENT

Betty Bartley  
1223 S 450 W  
Danville, IN 46122  
Tel. 745-2828

VICE PRESIDENT

Miss Libbe Hughes  
85 Cartersburg Road  
Danville, IN 46122  
Tel. 745-4833

SECRETARY

Miss Jewell Bell  
212 East Road 200 N  
Danville, IN 46122  
Tel. 745-4055

TREASURER

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

HISTORIAN

Janet Woodrum  
R R 1, Box 28  
Lizton, Indiana 46149  
Tel. 994-5759

Publicity

Miss Jewell Bell  
212 East Road 200 N  
Danville, IN 46122  
Tel. 745-4055

GENEALOGISTS

Miss Grace Cox  
494 West Clinton St.  
Danville, IN 46122  
Tel. 745-2552

Mrs. Roy Pritchard  
R. R. 1, Box 454  
Clayton, IN 46118  
Tel. 539-6890

Mrs. Roy Fisher  
Pittsboro, IN 46167  
Tel. 892-4780

Mrs. H. Harold Templin  
R. R. 2, Box 86  
Danville, IN 46122  
Tel. 539-4311

HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS

Danville Public Library  
101 S. Indiana  
Danville, IN 46122  
Attention: Lori Wynn  
Tel. 745-2604

Plainfield Public Library  
Guilford Twp. Hist. Col.  
1120 Stafford Rd.  
Plainfield, IN 46168  
Attn: Susan Miller Carter  
Tel. 839-6602

Hendricks County Hist. Museum  
Danville, IN 46122  
Open Tues & Sat 1 - 4 P.M.  
For further information call  
(317) 745-4055 or 852-2810

ANNUAL DUES \$3.00 PAYABLE IN NOVEMBER

\*\*\*\*\*

The Hendricks County Historical Bulletin is published quarterly in February, May, August and November. It is distributed without charge to members of the Society and to Hendricks County School Libraries. Individual copies of \$2.00. Communications concerning back copies or individual copies should be addressed to our secretary. Contributions or suggestions to The Bulletin should be mailed to the editor.

Margaret Baker  
(Mrs. C. Rawleigh Baker)  
9 Round Hill Road  
Danville, IN 46122  
Tel. 745-2115

PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN VISITS HENDRICKS COUNTY

"There's such a thing as common sense in America - and if you can't always find it in the capitol building in Washington, isn't it good to know that you can still find it in places like the Hendricks County Court House."

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, July 14, 1987

CORRECTION!

The August meeting of the Hendricks County Historical Society will be held at the Security Savings Association, 1500 E. Main St., Danville. Security Savings is located in Danville's Old Farm subdivision. Sorry for the inconvenience, but I hope to see you all on Sunday, August 2, 1987, at 2:00 pm.

Libbe

May 2, 1987

A pageant, A DAY IN THE LIFE OF THE SHERIFF AND HIS WIFE 100 YEARS AGO, was presented at the ROYAL PICTURE SHOW AND PLAYHOUSE in Danville, Sunday, May 3. Written by Mary Ann More of Brownsburg, it was enjoyed by the approximately 60 members and guests. The stage settings and costumes, typical of the era, were loaned by the HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM.

The cast consisted of Dorothy Kelley, narrator, Barry Kelley, sheriff, Judy Kelley, sheriff's wife, Libbe Hughes, Janet Woodrum and Betsy Kelley, daughters of the sheriff, Eloise Castetter, grandmother, Harold Templin, deputy sheriff, Bob Palma, minister, Cari Palma, minister's wife, and Kati Palma, minister's daughter. Stage hands were Bob Castetter and Cyndi Mangus.

A brief business meeting was held during which Maynard Nolan told of attending the grand opening of the ROYAL THEATER, as it was originally called, in 1928. Delicious refreshments served in the lobby ended a delightful afternoon.

\*\*\*\*\*

AUGUST 2 MEETING

PLEASE NOTICE CHANGE OF PLACE

The meeting was originally scheduled at Bartlett's Chapel near Avon, but wedding plans took precedence over our long standing reservations, so we will meet at Security Savings in Danville, (next to the Pizza Hut on the east side of town.)



Libbe Hughes, our vice president, will be the speaker. She will discuss 19th century Hendricks County newspaper. She plans to familiarize us with the humorous and serious content of the early papers. "Genealogists," she says, "are usually so intent on finding a specific obituary or marriage notice, that they sometimes fail to pause and really read the papers." So I am sure we will hear many interesting and amusing stories that have long been overlooked.

DON'T MISS THIS MEETING AND REMEMBER ..... SECURITY SAVINGS, Danville.

#### MUSEUM MUSINGS .....

Over the last few months, the museum has had several guests, various seekers of historical data, Boy Scout troops, classes from two Brownsburg elementary schools, visitors from out-of-state.

We've received two local papers dated 1930 & 1913, several books, old magazines, baby clothing & tableware, and more. Of special note was a "fine bonnet" of the Civil War era. It looks like it just arrived from the milliners.

The Hendricks County Garden Club ladies have been using their green thumbs! The flower bed since the rains, is "bustin out all over".

#### HENDRICKS COUNTY BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Libbe K. Hughes, HCHS vice president, and Susan M. Carter, Plainfield Public Library historical librarian, have been appointed by Judge Mary Lee Comer to serve on the Hendricks County Bicentennial Commission. The commission, which has been meeting monthly since May, was formed to prepare a county-wide celebration for the bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution. The celebration will begin nationwide on Thursday, September 17, 1987, and activities in Hendricks county will continue throughout the fall. Plans at this time include displays at area libraries, production of radio and cable TV programs, and poster and speech contests involving area schools. Hendricks county newspapers will carry complete details of the celebration as projects are finalized.

#### INDIANA'S RELIGIOUS SERVICES TO BE DOCUMENTED

INDIANAPOLIS--The variety of ways by which Hoosiers exercise their freedom of religion will be documented by a unique project sponsored by the Indiana Religious History Association in recognition of the bicentennials of the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 and the U.S. Constitution.

The project, "Documenting Freedom of Worship in Indiana," will involve tape recording a large number of worship services during the week of Sept. 20 to 26, 1987. Project director Edwin L. Becker estimates that 10,000 religious groups worship regularly in the state and he encourages all religious groups, denominations and organizations which conduct religious services to participate in the project. There is no charge. High-quality tapes will be furnished to participating groups.

Freedom of religion was asserted in the familiar first amendment to the Constitution, but even more sweeping in its intent was the first article of compact between the 13 original states and the people of the Territory of the United States, North-West of the Ohio River. That article proclaimed: "No person demeaning himself in a peaceable and orderly manner shall ever be molested on account of his mode of worship or religious sentiments in the said territory."

Materials gathered will be deposited at the Indiana Historical Society where they will be accessioned, catalogues, stored and made available to the public through the Society's library.

The project is being made possible by a grant from the Lilly Endowment. Locally, an informational brochure is available from Susan Carter, Hendricks County Historian, at the Plainfield Public Library, 1120 Stafford Road. For further details, contact the project director, Dr. Edwin L. Becker, at 283-8926 or 924-1331.

#### DANVILLE EAST CEMETERY COSTS

Enclosed please find a check of \$6.00 for member-ship dues for Ed & me for Hendricks County Historical Society.

We appreciate having a write up in the magazine you publish, for funds to restore the East Cemetery.

We received close to \$100 from your members. The entire bill was \$4800. We have not received nearly enough money to replace funds that we transferred from our general association account to the restoration fund. If this should happen again it will be a real disaster.

Sincerely,

Lois Etienne, Sec. Treas.

Danville East Cemetery Association

THANKS !

The Hendricks County Historical Society gratefully acknowledges Dr. Evelyn Payne Hatcher's gift Composition of Outdoor Painting by Edgar A. Payne. The book will be on permanent loan in the Indiana Room of the Danville Public Library. It will be a non-circulating item, but will be available for use in the library by area residents.

Dr. Hatcher is the daughter of Edgar A. Payne, artist of the mural in the Hendricks county circuit court room. We are especially indebted to Judge Jeffrey V. Boles for requesting a copy of the book on our behalf and for his on-going efforts to preserve the mural and to educate the public regarding its significance.



Here is information about our scrapbook.

"Morgan County History-Genealogy Club" made a third printing of their Morgan County Scrapbook. The book is made out of newspaper stories of Morgan county. It has over 400 pages, many pictures, maps of developments, ghost towns, etc. There are three items about Joppa which is in Hendricks county.

The book is \$18.50 plus \$2.00 packing and mailing. Call 831-0165, Becky Hardin for information. Both Plainfield and Danville libraries bought copies.

Scrapbook II will tell the story of Morgan county schools, churches and organizations. The club is doing research on lodges etc for Scrapbook II which it is hoped will be printed next year.

There is a map of townships on front of book. Also a story about the "bite" out of Morgan county that was annexed to Hendricks county. Becky would like to know if anyone knows why it was annexed. There is a list of names of people who signed the petition in 1868."

Rebecca Hardin  
Morgan County Historian

\*\*\*\*\*  
COME, LET'S TOUR THE MUSEUM

Come in and see the parlor. Beginning on our right we see a rocking chair with a rope stretched across from arm to arm. That means we'd better not sit in it. A few years ago an occupant got dumped. On the wall by the door is a framed photograph of the Jonathan S. Marshall family when he was sheriff. The family was gathered around on either side of the steps with Sheriff and Mrs. Marshall seated in the doorway. The next item is a piollian. It looks like a piano, but has to be pumped like the old pump-organs. To increase the volume, one pumps faster. That is one way of getting exercise. On the rack is lots of music just waiting for someone to play. Two or three hymnals and two pieces of sheet music, "California Rose" and "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear". Decorating the top is an assortment of antique dishes, a kerosene lamp and a musical instrument of the woodwind family and an early one at that. The top is draped with a wine-colored scarf with deep fringe. The chair used with the piollian has been refinished and outfitted with a needlepoint seat. Beside the piollian is a horse-hair chair. It dates back considerably. We don't use it nor do we use the two occasional chairs that are identical to the arm-chair. They're on loan and the owners might want them back.

Behind the chair is a glass enclosed what-not. It houses all sorts of little trinkets. All of yesteryear. Over it is a large picture of a woman who was a neighborhood nurse whom every one called on when help was needed. She outlived all her 9 children. Here's a model (life-size, no less)! She's all decked out in her good black dress topped off with a fine crochet and bead cape, also black. All set off with a brooch that looks like dark coral. She carries white kid gloves and a small fancy handbag.

Next is a velvet sofa with a carved wood frame. We don't use this one for we don't want to wear it out. The windows are outfitted with lace curtains ecru

color, floor length. (Our windows are floor length.) There are two windows on the east side and one on the north. Next is a parlor organ. It is not as tall as some organs we've seen but is a nice height. It is decorated with two hand painted vases. A graduation picture of the Danville High School Class of 1904 sits right above the music rack. Beside the picture is a leather music roll. It has served two generations of piano students. Another memento is a kerosene parlor lamp and a trophy that was won at the Indiana State Fair earlier in the century. Turn the corner and we see a clock mantel that was taken from a very old house in the Danville area. Yes! We mustn't forget the model we see next who wears a wedding dress worn in 1876. It is black with figures in pale blue and cream. Some may gasp at black, but we must remember it might be her "good" dress for a long time unless she happened to "outgrow" it. The table we come to next was formerly a conference table in a local law office. The finish is very smooth. Occupying the table is a doll house built to scale, is a replica of two Victorian houses here in Danville. It is done up with hard-wood floors. It is wired for lights. All done up in the order of that day.

On the other side of the house is a stereoptican set, that helped pass the time on Sunday afternoons or any rainy one. Here's a child's rocker with fancy woven cane seat and back. It has an occupant, pretty little blond dolly all dressed up in her long dress and white apron. We see next a model wearing a beautiful black peau de soie dress set off with cream collar and vestee. She wears an emerald brooch, and carries white kid gloves and a small fancy handbag. She wears a picture hat of black velvet trimmed with red roses. Two oval framed pictures hang on the wall. Around the corner again, here's a library and desk which stands quite tall with glass doors. Below it are three drawers, and below that, shelves and pigeon holes for storing all a students necessities.

We notice a real, for sure fountain pen, the kind that was very nice but on occasion could get ink all over you. Here is an ink-stand that was used in Territorial Courts and Legislatures both in Corydon and Indianapolis. This desk has a slant that is just right for writing and studying was likely easier. Also on the desk we see a "History of Hendricks County, 1885" and a "History of Hendricks County 1914". Also we see a marriage license dated 1916. There is another of those comfortable caned seat chairs at the desk. We use these chairs.

The dark brick fireplace has a mantel in white painted wood. Dark green tile extends about 2 1/2 feet from the fireplace. This is the remaining fireplace in the house. There used to be one in each room. Beside the fireplace is a wedding candle. It appears to have been used. The two horse-hair occasional chairs spoken of earlier are on either side of the fireplace. A tall beaver hat and a picture occupies one chair while a woven coverlet is draped over the back of the other one.

The mantel has a pair of gold-colored candlesticks with red candles, a couple of figurines and a kerosene lamp. There is a porcelain faced doll with a leather body. She is from the day when "fashionable" didn't mean thin. Here's another nice old rocker done up with cane seat and back. Right over the mantel is a picture of a pioneer lady. Nearest the door is a framed picture of a demure little girl all fixed up with curls. She probably never got dirty and probably minded without question. The phonograph shows off our many records received down through the years. There's a sweeper used in the early days before electric sweepers came on the scene. It does resemble the "Lectric Broom" in looks and they both take elbow grease! That shell that holds the door open is said to have a roaring sound when you hold it to your ear.



I nearly forgot! The stand-table in the center of the room! Drawn-work table cover, autograph books, kerosene lamp. Just like parlors used to be. On the shelf under the table are photo albums and a very old German Bible, dating back to the 1700's. You'll have to come visit again and we'll look at some more rooms.

Jewell

(From GRANDMA BOOK II)

Making Ice Cream Was Summertime Treat  
By Barbara Smith of Glendora, California

Picture a table set with soup bowls and heaped with homemade vanilla ice cream, slightly soft and delicately golden. Crushed and sugared strawberries, picked from the garden earlier in the day, lazily ooze down around the creamy mounds, filling up the sides of the dishes. Chopped walnuts cover the tops of the berries, and a few wayward nuts struggle down into the thick syrup. That's how ice cream used to be, back on our ranch in the 1920's.

Our ranch was a 10-acre orange grove in Fontana, California. A windbreak of eucalyptus trees surrounded the grove, and whenever the essence of orange blossoms played hooky, the pleasant fragrance of the eucalyptus took over and perfumed the air.

A dirt driveway, groove-worn from hard rubber tires, led from the two-lane road to our ramshackle frame home. The kitchen was the biggest room in the house, and that's where we spent most of our time, gathered around the pot-bellied stove. It was a wood-burner that heated the room as well as cooked our food.

On special occasions when we made ice cream, the hand-cranked ice cream freezer was the center of attention, proudly sitting in the middle of the kitchen floor with newspapers spread around and under it as if it were not housebroken.

We all had special jobs to do...Uncle Frank (who was really my great-uncle) chipped the block of ice. Mom cracked, shelled and diced the walnuts. Aunt Edie removed the stems and washed the berries. I helped her by slightly mashing them, occasionally tasting one or two. She added the sugar. Great-Aunt Trudie mixed the custard. The secret of the ice cream, we all knew, was in the custard.

There were three generations of us, and even though I was only 3 or 4, I can well remember my aunts, and how those ice cream-making days brought us all together for all kinds of story swapping and fun. Aunt Edie was large and could eat more ice cream than anyone else. Aunt Trudie was spry and lighthearted despite her naturally curly, silvery-white hair. "Oh, for cat's sake!" I often heard her say, never understanding exactly what that meant.

When the custard was ready, Aunt Trudie poured it into the ice cream cylinder, adding extra milk and cream. Then she inserted the dasher and tightly capped the precious container of custard.

The cylinder was placed into the freezer and the chipped ice packed snugly around it. Ice cream salt was added to the ice to help it freeze the ingredients. We all took turns cranking the handle that turned the dasher inside the cylinder.

When the cranking slowed and we could hardly turn it anymore, Uncle Frank took over--and then we knew the ice cream was beginning to set up. The anticipation of who would get to lick the dasher was nearly too much for me! However, my fears were always for naught as everyone got a chance. Our first samples were obtained by running fingers along the chilly little paddles and then sucking the ice cream from our freezing fingertips.

Next it was time to recap the cylinder, pack more ice and salt around it and wrap the freezer with dampened gunnysacks to hasten the freezing process.

During the waiting time, Aunt Trudie would fry up a couple of chickens and string some beans from her garden. Soon a feast would be set upon the solid oak table, and we'd all crowd in. The dessert, of course, was the best part of dinner!

That ranch no longer exists, and I am the only person left of the three generations. But the happy times we shared and those soup bowls filled with golden mounds of ice cream, fresh strawberries and walnuts will always be one of my favorite, most vivid memories.

#### MYSTERY MURAL REVISITED - ONE YEAR LATER! THE HENDRICKS CIRCUIT COURT ART WORK OF EDGAR ALVIN PAYNE

By Judge Jeffrey Boles

##### Background

August 12, 1986, Dr. Evelyn Payne Hatcher, Edgar Alvin Payne's daughter; her husband, Dr. J. B. Hatcher; and Dr. Rena N. Coen, professor of Art History at St. Cloud State University, came to Danville to view the Edgar Alvin Payne painting in the Circuit Court Room. After viewing the painting, they all had lunch with Judge Jeffrey V. Boles at J.J.'s Restaurant on the Square, in Danville. Out of that meeting came some new information about Edgar Alvin Payne and his painting in the Circuit Court Room.

Evelyn Payne Hatcher holds a doctorate in Anthropology, J. B. Hatcher holds a doctorate in Biochemistry, and Rena Coen's doctorate is in Art History. All three are involved in the production of a book on Edgar Alvin Payne, the artist, being written by Dr. Coen. The mural in the Hendricks Circuit Court will have a place in the book as a unique example of his art.

In December 1986, the Hendricks County Commissioners, recognizing the important artistic and historical value of the painting, authorized spending \$3,185.00 for the cleaning, repair, and preservation of the Edgar Alvin Payne painting in the Hendricks Circuit Court.

After these meetings and events, the mystery of the mural is beginning to unravel.

##### The Artist and The Painting

The Plainfield Friday Caller, on October 9, 1914, said "The splendid painting on the south wall, just back of the judge's bench, is a work of rare art and is something far out of the ordinary."



On December 19, 1913, the Commissioners of Hendricks County let a bid to Mitchell and Hallbach Decorating Company of Chicago, Illinois, for the amount of \$8,145.00 to decorate the Circuit Court Room. The painting that is on the wall in the Courtroom was delivered to Danville before May 31, 1914. There are no records as to title or information about the mural in existence and no known artist's notes have been found yet.

The mystery mural on the south wall of the Hendricks Circuit Court, in Danville, Indiana, was painted by Edgar Alvin Payne and his wife Elsie sometime between December 19, 1913, and May 31, 1914, at the Tree Studio Building in Chicago, Illinois. Elsie Payne drew the figures and Edgar painted the landscape and distant figures. Elsie Payne has told of climbing up on her bed in the bedroom to use the wall to make full size enlargements of outlines of figures for a mural, even though she was pretty far along with her pregnancy just before the birth of Evelyn. Evelyn remembers hearing stories from her mother about how she stood on the bed to draw the figures that Edgar later painted.

The painting is 4'5" high and 18'8" long. It is an oil on canvas, pioneer stockade scene, with approximately 44 characters, highlighted by a Black Priest in the center of the mural. There are numerous pioneer women, Indians, trappers, fur traders, scouts, and a figure reading a proclamation to the assembled group of characters. The title of the painting has yet to be discovered.

Dr. Rena Coen believes the subject of the painting is probably George Rogers Clark addressing the settlers of Vincennes during events that took place on February 25, 1779. Vincennes had just been recaptured by Clark from the British after a harrowing march with 53 men, 160 miles from Kaskaskia over frozen marshes and with little food. After the surrender of the British Garrison, the citizens of Vincennes swore allegiance to the United States, and to the State of Virginia, to which the Indiana Territory then belonged. The priest, who is reading the notice at the upper left, behind the youthful figure of Clark, is undoubtedly Father Gibault, who had been dispatched to Vincennes the previous June by Clark (after Clark's capture of Kaskaskia), to win over the French settlers of Vincennes to the American cause. This, Father Gibault accomplished, in the Summer of 1778, while the British Garrison was temporarily absent, and the following January he joined up, again, with Clark to accompany him on the difficult march from Kaskaskia to Vincennes.

Edgar Alvin Payne was born on March 1, 1883, in Washburn, Missouri. His middle name "Alvin" is a made up name by him to relieve him of the confusion with Edgar Allen Poe. Payne chose the name "All-win" because he wanted to win it all.

His family moved to Prairie Grove, Arkansas, and then to Lovelady, Texas, when he was a child. As a young child, Payne first saw a small scene painted on a wagon and began experimenting with bluing, housepaint, and red paint from pokeberry juice to the consternation of his father. Payne left home at the age of 14 because his father objected to Payne's selection of art as a career.

Payne travelled, for a time, with Barnstorming Theatrical Groups, through Arkansas, Texas and New Mexico, where he worked as a house painter, sign painter, scene painter, and later as a mural painter in Chicago.

Payne painted scenery for Sarah Bernhardt (1844-1923 "The Divine Sarah" - Hamlet - French Legion of Honor), who allowed Payne to take bows on the stage for his work. He painted for Maude Adams (1872-1953 - Peter Pan - What every Woman

knows - Chanticleer - Dramatics teacher.), who watched him with considerable interest; only afterwards did Payne learn that the pretty girl watching him was a star.

Payne was totally self taught and, in his early years, did not draw figures well or easily. Payne attended the Art Institute of Chicago for two weeks, beginning on April 1, 1907, in a portrait painting class. He had no other formal training.

In 1911, Payne took his first trip to California and Laguna Beach (on California Highway 1, South of Los Angeles and North of San Juan Capistrano and San Clemente). He met the lady he would later marry, Elsie Palmer, in San Francisco. Elsie Palmer was born in San Antonio, Texas, on September 9, 1884, and attended Art School in San Francisco, California. Elsie had a flourishing career as a fashion illustrator, designer for outdoor advertising, and designed billboards for such national companies as Pabst beer, Old Dutch cleanser, and Kellogg's Corn Flakes. Elsie had a rather complete and thorough art training, and had worked for advertising agencies. She was pretty skillful, and could make the "cartoons" as they were called--the full-sized drawings utilized in doing billboards. Payne had the ability to "soften" the drawing outlines in paintings so that they blended into the whole.

Edgar and Elsie were married on Saturday, November 9, 1912, after Edgar had to postpone their wedding to the afternoon so that he could work on a mural for Mandell's Department Store in the day while the light was good for painting. Edgar and Elsie finished the mural the day after their wedding.

In January, 1914, a daughter, Evelyn, was born to the Paynes. While Mrs. Payne was still alive, in 1969, she, Evelyn, and Evelyn's husband formed Payne Studios Inc., 3104 Silver Lake Road, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 55418, telephone number 612-781-2088, which now has all the artistic works and records of both Edgar Alvin Payne and Elsie Palmer Payne. Payne Studios Inc. will publish early next year a new book on the art and lives of both of the Paynes, which is now being written by Dr. Coen.

In 1916, the Sante Fe Railroad and their Harvey Houses underwrote the expenses of a summer trip to the southwest where Payne sketched in the Navajo and Hopi Indian Country. The mountains of the southwest left a lasting impression upon Payne. Payne is not known to have done more than a few portraits (one of a Navajo) and he did only two still lifes. All the rest of his work was landscape or early murals.

In 1917, Payne painted his last murals in Glendale, California, and shipped them to the Congress Hotel in Chicago, Illinois. He was assisted by artists Conrad Buff, Peter Neilson, Grayson Sayre, and Jack Wilkinson Smith. All four were later to become famous painters in their own right.

The Congress Hotel job took the painters three months and during that time they used 26,000 square yards of muslin and over 2 tons of pigment. The result of the work fitted all of the corridors of the eleven floors of the Congress Hotel with paintings with only six feet left over. When the murals were shipped to Chicago, they were installed and matched without error. This was Payne's last and largest mural work. The murals are gone and no photographs are known to survive.

By 1918, the Paynes were established in Laguna Beach, California, where Edgar Payne is credited with formulating the idea of an Art Association.



Edgar Payne was the first President of the Board of Directors of the Laguna Beach Art Association.

Payne and his group of interested artists drew up the bylaws and "charter" of the Laguna Beach Art Association on August 22, 1918. The Association was incorporated on March 15, 1920 and holds the reputation of being the oldest cultural organization in Orange County. Payne's group gained permission from the city council of Laguna Beach to use the old town hall for their first art gallery. The members renovated the building and scheduled a successful exhibition program that drew attention from as far away as New York City. The Laguna Beach Art Association is now the Laguna Beach Museum of Art, 307 Cliff Drive, Laguna Beach, California 92651, telephone number 714-494-6531. Some of Payne's High Sierra art is displayed there.

Payne is most often thought of as the most famous painter of the California High Sierra Mountains. He always liked to say that within two hundred miles of his home there were more lakes and mountains to paint than in all of Europe. Fred Hogue, an art critic and friend of Payne, called Payne "The God of the mountains. A poet-painter of the California Sierras."

All of Payne's murals, with the exception of a deteriorating mural in the Clay County Circuit Court, Brazil, Indiana, have been destroyed. This fact coupled with Payne's change in style preferring the Sierra Mountain scenery makes the painting in the Hendricks Circuit Court priceless.

In 1921, the Paynes moved to Los Angeles, California, and his paintings were promoted and sold by Earl Stendahl of the Stendahl Galleries in the Ambassador Hotel. Payne became attracted to the High Sierras in California and his days were filled with painting. Sometime, when listening to the radio in the evening, he would make pencil sketches, trial compositions, etc., which might later be used in large studio paintings. Payne had a very high regard for Indian craftsmen. His method was always to paint very rapidly, and to destroy what he didn't like, but sometimes he would put his work aside with the intent of looking it over later, to see whether he wanted to keep it or not. Nearly every summer, Edgar Payne packed into the High Sierras, from Bishop, Big Pine, Independence, or Lone Pine (in Inyo County, California, along the scenic route of California Highway 395). He always seemed happiest in the remote places, and places could be very remote in those days. He would camp in the Sierras, where he saw no one for weeks, except his family, living primitively and close to nature. Payne hated to leave the mountains until his food or turpentine ran out.

Payne would sketch smaller things around a camp, the chipmunks, a flower, and so forth, for the pleasure of his daughter and partly for his own pleasure, but none of these sketches were ever incorporated into his painted works.

There is a Payne Lake, California, memorializing him because of his work. The name has been corrupted by United States Geological Survey maps to "Paine Lake". For those who are interested in geography, "Paine Lake" is about 2300 feet long and 360 feet wide, lying N.W. to S.E. and slightly crescent shaped. Its center is at 37° 13' 52" latitude, 118° 44' 12.5" longitude, at an elevation of 11,216 feet as indicated on the Mt. Darwin 7.5' quadrangle map. It is on the eastside of the Inconsonable Range. The United States Board on Geographic Names approved the correction to the proper "Payne Lake" on 11 December 1986, with publication in Decision List 8604.

In the spring of 1922, the Paynes, after a sendoff banquet that included a speech by Hogue from Radio Station KHJ, travelled and painted about Europe in a Model T Ford Payne bought in France. Payne, his wife, and daughter, travelled through Europe painting scenes from France through Italy and Switzerland. Payne and his family not only studied nature directly, but studied art directly too, as if he found words inadequate, and they spent many hours in art museums all over Europe.

Upon returning to Los Angeles in 1926, a substantial exhibition at the Stendahl Galleries and other sales helped his finances.

Payne held an exhibition of his art work at the University of Illinois in 1928. One of his paintings "The Restless Sea" can be seen in Indianapolis at the Herron Art Institute.

In the late 1920's, the Paynes moved to New York after a year at Westport, and then later returned to Los Angeles.

During the Depression, his fine paintings were absolutely marvelous for trading for all kinds of luxury items. Payne traded his work for Oriental rugs, Paisley shawls, and fine clothing for Evelyn's trousseau. Elsie Payne opened her own studio in Beverly Hills, California, and painted, taught, and sold her works as well as Edgar's paintings.

In 1941, Edgar Payne wrote Composition of Outdoor Painting published by his own Seward Publishing Company. The book is still considered a classic on the essentials of outdoor painting for practical students. A 4th edition was published by Payne's Studios, Inc., and may be obtained from the distributor, Deru's Fine Art Books, 9100 E. Artesia Boulevard, Bellflower, California 90706, telephone number 213-920-1312.

During the 40's, not only did Payne produce a multitude of Sierra scenes, but he also produced a color motion picture called "Sierra Journey." In the early 40's, Payne lent his name to the Schmincke Artists Oil Colors Company in endorsement for their products.

Payne was a shy and diffident person, who worked incessantly, and really studied the things he painted. Payne tended to be interested in art as a process, and to be always eager to do what he was going to do next, and possessions simply didn't mean that much to him for what they were worth in money, nor did he make a great effort to hang on to his paintings.

Payne's life of work, travel, and art, during the 20's, 30's, and 40's, appears to be one we would all like to emulate. He had the experience of being at the famous places in the world many of us have just had to read about. Through his art work, we all have an opportunity for firsthand visits.

Payne died of cancer on April 8, 1947, at his studio on Seward Street, in Hollywood, California.

The painting in the Hendricks Circuit Court, Danville, Indiana, remains a mystery mural, a gift to all who see it, and a living monument to Edgar Alvin Payne.



I would like to extend my sincere thanks and admiration to Dr. Evelyn Payne Hatcher, Dr. J. B. Hatcher, and Dr. Rena Coen, for their interest, correspondence, and materials that they have submitted me, from which I have liberally borrowed, especially from Dr. Evelyn Payne Hatcher's Edgar Payne: BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES. By their interest in Edgar Payne's painting, the citizens of Hendricks County and all who view the Circuit Court painting will have a better understanding of art and the gift of Edgar Payne.

\*\*\*\*\*

Reprinted from the Hendricks County Union, August 19, 1880 p5c5

#### Things I Want to Know.

Will some one please tell me what there is interesting about dogs? I don't mean the individual dog to whom you are so much attached, the dog for whom you would strip your coat, roll up your sleeves, and fight your friend and neighbor for a real or imaginary insult offered to your favorite canine.

I mean dogs as a race, the barking, howling, yelping nuisances that infest our village, turning night into pandemonium.

Show me the person possessing nerves who has not lost many a night's needed rest through the intolerable propensity of dogs for making a fuss.

Who has not witnessed the stirring effect of one tormenting bark commencing when all was still and he (or she) was just in that delicious state of actual unconsciousness that precedes precious sleep?

The first sharp bark brings us back to consciousness with a jerk that sends the blood with a rush to the very finger ends. We turn over and try to compose ourselves again, but alas! Archer's dog across the street, roused by a challenge from Pattison's dog, gets up from his bed, plants himself on Shirley's platform and answers in an ear-splitting bark. Then the dog at Morgan's corner answers in a shrill yelp and in fact, before five minutes every dog within hearing is up and stirring. Now we suffer, tumble and toss, turn our pillow to get the cool side, count our thousands forward and backward, think of sheep jumping a fence, but all in vain. The counting merges into calculations of how many dogs there are in hearing, the sheep are forgotten in studying the variety of tone between big dog barks and little dog barks. Deep plots of dire vengeance are laid for the morrow. The morning comes at last, we are completely worn out, weak and utterly unfit for duty. In fact, the whole world goes wrong with us. All due to one insignificant cur.

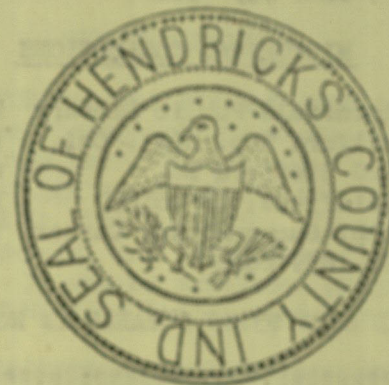
It may be said that the cat is just as bad. But that is not so, in the first place, one cat's music don't effect every cat in the neighborhood to reply in the same strain, and in the second place, a well directed boot jack or a stick of wood will generally be sufficient to convince pussy that her racket is not appreciated."

\*\*\*\*\*



# HENDRICKS COUNTY

## HISTORY BULLETIN



VOLUME IX

NUMBER IV

NOVEMBER 1987  
PUBLISHED BY

THE HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DANVILLE, INDIANA

HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
BOX 128  
DANVILLE, IN 46122

Patricia Cox  
310 Urban  
Danville IN 46122

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U. S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
DANVILLE, IN  
PERMIT #303



HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

ORGANIZED 1967

OFFICERS 1987

PRESIDENT

Betty Bartley  
1223 S 450 W  
Danville, IN 46122  
Tel. 745-2828

VICE PRESIDENT

Miss Libbe Hughes  
85 Cartersburg Road  
Danville, IN 46122  
Tel. 745-4833

SECRETARY

Miss Jewell Bell  
212 East Road 200 W  
Danville, IN 46122  
Tel. 745-4055

TREASURER

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

HISTORIAN

Janet Woodrum  
R R 1, Box 28  
Lizton, Indiana 46149  
Tel. 994-5759

PUBLICITY

Miss Jewell Bell  
212 East Road 200 W  
Danville, IN 46122  
Tel. 745-4055

GENEALOGISTS

Miss Grace Cox  
494 West Clinton St.  
Danville, IN 46122  
Tel. 745-2552

Mrs. H. Harold Templin  
R. R. 2, Box 86  
Danville, IN 46122  
Tel. 539-4311

Mrs. Roy Fisher  
Pittsboro, IN 46167  
Tel. 892-4780

HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS

Danville Public Library  
101 S. Indiana  
Danville, IN 46122  
Attention: Lori Wynn  
Tel. 745-2604

Plainfield Public Library  
Guilford Twp. Hist. Col.  
1120 Stafford Rd.  
Plainfield, IN 46168  
Attn: Susan Miller Carter  
Tel. 839-6602

Hendricks County Hist. Museum  
Danville, IN 46122  
Open Tues & Sat 1 - 4 P.M.  
For further information call  
(317) 745-4055 or 852-2810

ANNUAL DUES \$3.00 PAYABLE IN NOVEMBER

\*\*\*\*\*

The Hendricks County Historical Bulletin is published quarterly in February, May, August and November. It is distributed without charge to members of the Society and to Hendricks County School Libraries. Individual copies of \$2.00. Communications concerning back copies or individual copies should be addressed to our secretary. Contributions or suggestions to The Bulletin should be mailed to the editor.

Margaret Baker  
(Mrs. C. Rawleigh Baker)  
9 Round Hill Road  
Danville, IN 46122  
Tel. 745-2115

Life is no brief candle to me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got hold of for the moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on down to future generations.

— George Bernard Shaw

HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS

Greetings!

The Hendricks County Historical Society faces 1988 with the grim realization that our burden has become heavier. It is with sadness that we note the passing of one of our most valuable members, Ruth Pritchard. Ruth, who was always so energetic and tireless, devoted herself to the Hendricks County Historical Society and to the preservation of our county's heritage. Whether it was transcribing a cemetery or researching a ghost town, Ruth was ever efficient, accurate, and enthusiastic.

With over 300 members, our society can follow Ruth's example and provide strong support in researching and preserving our county's history. A little spare time can be put to excellent use volunteering at the Hendricks County Historical Museum or at one of our county's public libraries. There's always next year's programs to research and present, as well. So take a few minutes and consider how you can help our society in its ongoing efforts.

Libbe

\*\*\*\*\*

AUGUST MEETING

THE HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY met August 2, at the SECURITY SAVINGS MEETING ROOM, Danville. In the absence of our president, Libbe Hughes presided and greeted the group. After the usual reports were given, Libbe read a thoroughly researched paper, A LOOK AT EARLY INDIANA PAPERS which was most interesting and will be quoted in this bulletin. In addition, she had prepared a fascinating display of old papers, and advertisements of drug stores, livery stables and dry goods stores. It was an excellent program, followed by a social hour prepared by the ladies of Middle, Lincoln and Brown Townships.

\*\*\*\*\*

NOVEMBER 1ST MEETING

John C. Miller of Plainfield will present the results of his research on the life of William Temple Hornaday, naturalist, at the November meeting of the Hendricks County Historical Society. The meeting will be held at the Plainfield Public Library at 2:00 p.m., Sunday, November 1.

William T. Hornaday was born December 1, 1854 near Plainfield, in Washington Township of Hendricks County. The son of William and Martha Varner Hornaday, he was born on the family farm which is now part of Prestwick development.

Hornaday spent much of his childhood in Iowa. His early visits back to Indiana were to his grandfather Ezekiel Hornaday's farm, now owned by Dr. and Mrs. Robert McDougal. Central Indiana, as well as Iowa, had a great influence on his early and continued interest in wildlife.

Destined to become a nationally recognized naturalist, conservationist and taxidermist, Hornaday began his career in taxidermy at Ward's Establishment, Rochester, New York. Later, he served as chief taxidermist at the National Museum, Washington, D.C.



A founder of the Washington Zoo, he was also the Director of the New York Zoological Park, New York City. The author of over 20 published books, primarily on the subjects of wildlife and conservation, Hornaday also wrote and published poetry and temperance and patriotic material.

Hornaday was a frequent contributor to the popular magazines of the day. He often wrote for "The Mentor," a self-improvement journal published twice a month by the Mentor Association. He served on the advisory board of the association which was headquartered in New York City.

While researching at the Library of Congress, Miller discovered a copy of Hornaday's unpublished autobiography which includes a section entitled "My Love Story." In it, Hornaday wrote engagingly of his courtship and marriage to Josephine Chamberlain in 1879.

William T. Hornaday died March 6, 1937 at Stamford, Connecticut at age 82.

The public is invited to attend the meeting of the Hendricks County Historical Society to learn more about this famous county native.

#### MUSINGS FROM THE MUSEUM

Since the last meeting the museum has received an assortment of items necessary to run a business. Included is a cash register, an adding machine, packages of tapes for both cash register and adding machine. Also there is a sewing machine needle box like we used to see some years ago. There was a box of assorted needles and bobbins.

There is an assortment that includes a quilt and a lap-robe and clothing, some Danville school yearbooks - 1911, 1921 and 1924, a CNC yearbook, a handwritten detailed account several pages long of a Civil War veteran who had lived for a while in Hendricks County, there is memorabilia from a club and a sorority.

The museum had a booth at the "Olde Fashioned Fall Festival" at Brownsburg on September 19. Included was the ever popular "whatsis" board. All the materials used were from Brownsburg originally.

The wind became a nuisance and kept the attendants busy, but nothing was damaged.

The flower bed got a new lease on life - for awhile at least. It was cleaned off and new plants were set out.

The museum was open during Swap & Shop, Oct. 10 - 11. There was a nice attendance. A light rain dampened the festivities on Saturday but Sunday was nicer.

Jewell Bell

#### ANOTHER TOUR OF THE MUSEUM

We've seen the library and parlor, let's take a good look at our entrance hall.

When we open the front door we notice the tall ceilings. That is something we'll notice in all the downstairs except in the work area (jail kitchen) and those ceilings are even taller. It is believed to be made of patterned tin.

Behind the front door is a hall tree. Hall closets were almost unheard of then. The building was started in 1866. Investigation of the hall tree shows an assortment of shawls. One shawl is crocheted and is made circular. Another is a fine heavy silk. There are hats, bonnets, all from a by-gone era. We, have as you notice, wind chimes hanging from two door ways. Between the two south doors, holding the guest book, is an old pulpit. The pulpit was from the old building across the street from the museum. The church at the time this pulpit was used was a Methodist Episcopal Church and was in a building prior to the building now standing. Let's close the door that leads to the workroom and the nether regions (jail cells) and basement. Here's a map of Hendricks County dating 1865. We'll turn on the light and you need a magnifying glass. It is interesting to compare then and now. There are towns, now long gone, that were flourishing communities then. It is interesting to see who owned familiar territory then. The door we encounter leads into a little hallway. From there we can go into the work room (the old jail kitchen) or into the jail cells or to the basement. On the right of the doorway and along the stairway we notice a cabinet or buffet if you prefer, that was made by a cabinet maker here in the county. The drawers won't interchange and they must be put back the way they come out. It is a beautiful piece of furniture! Now, all this time no doubt you have noticed the beautiful stairway. Once in a while someone is heard to ask just how it would be for sliding down. It wasn't any of the younger generation, either! They sounded as if they had some experience. The next two doors lead into the restored kitchen and the parlor. The flooring on the street floor is oak. Upstairs is some sort of hardwood. The basement, of course, is concrete.

Jewell

#### HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS LIST

History of Hendricks County, Indiana, 1914-1976

Edited by John R. McDowell

A compilation of historical material and biographical profiles written by the people of Hendricks County. Published by the Hendricks County Historical Society, Danville, Indiana. October, 1976. Hardbound. 640 pages. Illustrated. PRICE: \$26.25, tax included

Complete Index of The History of Hendricks County, 1914-1976

Edited by John R. McDowell, indexed by Ruth Dorrell with the assistance of Carolyn Kellum and others. December 1977. Softbound. 62 pages. PRICE: \$2.10, tax included

(PRICE FOR THE HISTORY AND INDEX, \$28.35, tax included)



Prairie Farmer's Directory of Hendricks County, Indiana, 1920

Includes directories of the farmers, breeders, automobile owners, tractor owners of the county, along with valuable and interesting information.

REPRINT, 1985. Softbound. 230 pages. Includes advertising.

MEMBER'S PRICE: \$14.00, tax included. NONMEMBER'S PRICE: \$18.00, tax included.

Atlas of Hendricks County, Indiana, to which is added various general maps,

history, statistics, illustrations, \*c&c&c. Chicago, J. H. Beers & Co., 1878.

Includes biographies, portraits, illustrations of farms; a very fascinating and informative book.

REPRINT, 1986. Softbound. 50+ pages. Maps. (Reduced in size to 11 x 14 inches)

MEMBER'S PRICE: \$14.00, tax included. NONMEMBER'S PRICE: \$18.00, tax included.

Honoring Our Heritage in Hendricks

By Ruth Mitchell Pritchard. Hendricks County Sesquicentennial Committee, Danville, Indiana 1974. This booklet explains the stories behind the 14 drawings which

appear on the Hendricks County Ancestor-Descendant Certificates issued during the County's Sesquicentennial Celebration. The drawings are representative of

the county and the various aspects of home, church, school, government, travel, industry, business, occupation, and even tragedy and adversity.

Softbound. 43 pages. Illustrated. PRICE: \$2.63, tax included.

For ordering information, call:

Susan Carter, Plainfield Public Library, (317) 839-6602

Or you may write to L. K. Hughes, 85 Cartersburg Rd., Danville, IN 46122

Publications offered by the STULTZ COMPUTING SERVICES, Carol Stultz

165 N SR 75

Danville, IN 46122

FEDERAL CENSUS NOW COMPLETED:

1850 Brown County, Indiana ..... \$15.00

1850 Jackson County, Indiana ..... 18.00

1810 Pulaski & Rockcastle, KY..... 12.00

Other census will follow later

This is a hands on genealogy tool and is set up with an entire alphabetical index of the census along with the census being printed just as the census taker had taken it.

WE WELCOME NEW GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

The COUNTY SEAT GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY - PRIMARY SOURCES was formed April 23, 1987, as a means of promoting and aiding research in the field of genealogy. Our primary aim is to "copy" primary source records and use them as the basis of our

quarterly publication, COUNTY SEAT SCRAPS.

Excerpts of records which will appear in the publication are: wills, deeds, probate records, marriage records, miscellaneous records, mortgage records, immigration and naturalization records, estray records, original land entries and any other available county records. We will also occasionally publish records from other areas, as they become available to us. We also plan to "surprise" our subscribers once in a while with an occasional "old" recipe or some other froth to lighten up the pudding!

Membership to COUNTY SEAT GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY - PRIMARY SOURCES is open to all. Annual dues are \$12.00, beginning and ending January 1 of each year. The publication of the society, COUNTY SEAT SCRAPS, is free to all members and will accept free queries of 50 words from members. Queries may be submitted one at a time, 50 words per issue, or more than one query may be submitted together not to exceed the remainder of subscription. Name and address are not counted as words. Each additional word over 50 will be at the rate of four cents per word. Three hundred words for \$5.00.

Each group of numbers or letters which is surrounded on both sides by spaces count as a single word. Punctuation marks are accepted as "free". Hyphenated words count as one word. Dates, such as day, month and year, are three words. Two word States count as one word (such as North Carolina).

Deadlines for queries are first of October for the January issue, first of January for the April issue, first of April for the July issue and the first of July for the October issue.

While our primary records search will be Hendricks County, Indiana, records, we will also submit records from other counties from time to time. It is our desire to use primary records as our main source of information, but we will not limit ourselves to this practice exclusively.

This organization is non-profit and we reserve the right to edit and/or reject material that may be unsuitable for our publication. We cannot accept responsibility for incorrect information.

Dues are payable in advance by check or money order. No stamps or cash, please. Pay to Treasurer, Jean Day, please.

James Cummins, Pres.	Carol Stultz, Sec.	Kathern Eving, VP
229 S. Jefferson	165 N SR 75	119 N. Washington
Danville, IN 46122	Danville, IN 46122	Danville, IN 46122

Mr. Bill Day	Jean Day, Treas.	Patricia Cox, Ed.
52 W. Broadway	52 W. Broadway	310 Urban Street
Danville, IN 46122	Danville, IN 46122	Danville, IN 46122

IN MEMORIAM

Every member of our society was saddened to learn of the death of Ruth Pritchard. She has given so much of herself to us that she will be sorely missed, not only for her many contributions to THE BULLETIN but for her cheery presence at all our meetings. We share the grief of her family and extend to them our deepest sympathy.



\*\*\*\*\*  
A LOOK AT EARLY HENDRICKS COUNTY NEWSPAPERS  
\*\*\*\*\*

(This paper, by Libbe Hughes, was so very interesting,  
we want to share it with our readers.)

When I volunteered to give this program last December, I fully intended to introduce you to the humor in early Hendricks county newspapers. Comic pages being an invention of the last few decades, cartoons, excepting those of a political nature, are virtually nonexistent in 19th century newspapers. Humor in these papers is not visual, but rather in the form of stories or anecdotes.

However, I quickly came to two realizations. First, there is a massive volume of material to work with. Weekly newspapers published all over the county on newsheet larger than that currently used today, running four to twelve pages in length, no photographs, small ads and print, and lots of local material. I was forced to narrow my research immediately, so I chose to restrict myself to those papers published in Danville for a couple of reasons. The Danville papers, because they originated in the county seat, are county-oriented. They contain as much information about surrounding towns as they do about Danville. Also, the circulation of these papers was much higher, their influence more widespread than the newspapers from Plainfield or Coatesville.

My second realization comes from helping other researchers. Most genealogists and local historians use our early newspapers; to locate an obituary, a real estate transfer, or an application for a marriage license, but few ever read them. Even fewer researchers read them in context--a run of six weeks, six months, or a year. Newspapers may be independent pieces of work, but their greatest value is derived from a run. I felt that my efforts would be better expended in an attempt to introduce you to our early county newspapers, to show how their contents matured. And because humor is an integral part of the papers, I've included that as well.

Most historians will agree that a photograph is vision. It gives us a glimpse into another age--by the physical aspect of what appears in the photo, and by the way the picture is framed by the camera. It gives us an indication of how the taker saw his subject and what he considered to be important. If you agree that photographs provide vision, it logically follows that newspapers and diaries provide voice. Through them, we can hear the thoughts and conversations of a past age. Voice and vision, sight and sound--the combination gives us greater insight.

Diaries are not usually within the public domain. By their very nature, they are intimate sounds, full of abbreviations, nicknames, and lacking in accuracy. Newspapers on the other hand are practically public institutions. Their contents have been contributed by area residents and their influence is immediately widespread at the time of publication.

The perspective these items give us is not without its prejudices. With a photo, you can cut off the head of an obnoxious cousin you never really liked, in a dairy, you can include something nasty about the neighbor who let his hogs root through your garden, but with a newspaper, the reasoning is slightly more complex.

First, you must always remember that a newspaper is a business venture--a for profit business. A printer may be producing a paper to showcase his skill

at jobwork (jobwork being his skill at printing sale bills, stationery, and invitations) but he is still concerned with making money. You must also realize that 19th century newspapers, not unlike most periodicals today, are paid for, not by subscription fees, but by the advertisements. The ads pay for the labor, supplies, and distribution of the rag--subscription fees are the clear cut profits.

Therefore, perhaps indirectly or subconsciously, the paper assumes the prejudices of its advertisers. An editor can print only within the tolerance of his advertisers. He simply can't afford to say something libelous or derogatory about his largest advertiser's mother-in-law unless that advertiser has done him some grave injustice. Our United States Constitution provides for Freedom of the Press, certainly a grand ideal, but not a very practical one. Freedom of the Press is limited economically in the business world.

Besides biased viewpoints, information in the early papers can be notoriously inaccurate. Remember that there can often be lengthy delays before items reach the press. And the contents should be eyed with caution, even skepticism. When town gossips and sociable letter writers contribute the local items, information can be misleading, distorted, even omitted.

Technical advances in the world caused the contents of small town weekly papers to mature rapidly. In the early 1800's, weeklies, two to four pages in length, contained very small advertisements, no photographs (of course), few graphics, and an almost total dependence on local and state matters. Hendricks county being situated near Indianapolis, our papers contained a larger portion of state news than most.

By the 1850's, America was becoming a nationalized society. We were developing faster, more efficient modes of transportation, so communications became faster, and more accurate. In turn, newspapers reflected an increase in state and national news.

The 1860's and 70's brought an increase to six or eight pages. Advertisements became slightly larger, with more graphics and design work. War and campaign news were prominent items for these decades, and many battlegrounds and general's faces were presented through line drawings and engravings reproduced in the weeklies.

What most people recognize as a typical Victorian era newspaper actually developed during the latter portion of the 1800's, from the 1880's to the turn of the century. Detailed, delicate engravings, lots of prominent graphics with scrolls and filigrees, and large advertisements exemplified these decades. It became common practice for the first time to actually picture the advertised product, whether it be a corn planter, corset, or patent medicine remedy.

Subscribers began demanding larger, more attractive newspapers. Editors soon found that the large publishing houses in Chicago and New York offered an inexpensive way to increase the number of pages in their weeklies. The publishing houses developed 'patent pages' or 'ready pages' designed to extend the contents of a small paper with sheets of general, undated world-wide news. Any editor purchasing the patent pages automatically extended his paper to eight or ten pages with children's columns, articles on agriculture, science, household tips, or the latest Parisian fashions for the Amos housewife. The discerning reader likewise benefitted from the weekly serial stories (mystery, romance, or the ever-popular western adventure) and in-depth articles on great achievements such as the quest for the North Pole.



By the turn of the century, large, attractive weekly papers made the slow transition into dailies. Page numbers increased. And photographs found a place in journalism--right on the front page of almost every American newspaper. Today, we sectionalize our paper to the extreme (classifieds, business, sports, entertainment) but they are very similar to those published in the early part of the century.

To bring all of these generalizations of newspaper publishing to Hendricks county, perhaps it's best to regale you with some noteworthy selections.

To start with, the joyous announcements of weddings and births are numerous.

"Wyatt Cosner's countenance wears a fatherly expression. It's a girl."

"Auditor Hall is the happy father of a fine baby girl. Weight 8 pounds. He is doing as well as can be expected under the circumstances."

"James M. Barlow, of Washington Twp., has just been blessed with a fifth son and heir, and as a result he is exceedingly proud. It is said that he will now and then stop in the midst of his work and lay down on the ground to laugh at the prospect of having five boys to help fight the Democratic party."

"Nathan Kendall's boy will be old enough to vote in 21 years."

When publishing wedding announcements, the printer charged a small fee, usually a taste of the wedding cake. The length and generosity of the announcement depended on the quality and quantity of cake. The marriage of Dr. James W. Adams to Miss Mary J. Cox was announced with the following notice:

"Nary a cake. Despite our grief at this, however, we wish 'em muchly."

On the opposite side of the coin, there is the occasional divorce notice.

"Mr. & Mrs. John Harding have severed their marital relations. Cause: chronic cussedness on the part of the husband."

And 19th century newspapers are justly known for their obituaries. While some may be a line in length, most are paragraphs of absorbing details. It is not unusual for the paper to include the afflicted's dying words, the attending physician's medical opinion as to the cause of death, and the complete autopsy report.

My favorite obituary though, is a fine example of the editor's tact and sensitivity. In July, 1879, the Hendricks County Union reports the deaths of two people who were struck and killed by lightning near Danville. The headlines read "Launched by Lightning--Unheralded into Eternity".

The editors of the small town paper often served as the conscience of the town. They strove to maintain respectability and were not hesitant to call for social reform. And they provided a formidable crime watch program as well.

"The gentleman who left his hat in C. O'haver's watermelon patch last Saturday night can have it if he will call on Mr. O'haver."

"We would be glad to publish the names of a couple of young ladies whose conduct was supremely ridiculous and unbecoming at church last Sunday."

"Some person had better not visit a certain milkhouse too often or they might be recognized by the law."

It's noted in 1872 that "To break a pane of glass in the Court House costs a boy \$8.00."

"If you wish to see a genuine blushing, grinning, and hesitating specimen of humanity, just ask C. H. Brown how it happened that he got both his thumbs caught in a steel trap one night last week."

". . . for persons to go swimming in full view of a public highway and private residences indicates a want of self respect unbecoming any young man. Those to whom this is intended as a hint will save trouble and cost by seeking a more secluded spot before taking a plunge."

The menfolk in the county took a definite stand on the fashionable hoopskirt of the 1850's and 60's. They minced no words in ridiculing the crinoline practice, and the ladies certainly didn't keep secret their opinion. In 1857, the editor of the Butcher Knife included this note:

"Young ladies who are mad at us, because we speak of hoops in our paper, oughtn't to make ugly mouths at us on the street. It makes us feel so queer."

Entertainment was just as newsworthy in the 19th century as it is today. Large circuses visiting the area created great excitement. Ofttimes, the large ads for the upcoming show would be followed the next week with bitter comments regarding the age of the elephants, the lion's mange, and the bear's noticeable lack of teeth.

The 1870's and 80's found the county in a turmoil over the latest fad--roller skating! Rinks opened up all over the county. Parents eyed the frivolity with stern disapproval while the teenagers enjoyed themselves immensely. For once, the newspaper's view was decidedly for the sport.

"Minn, Ida and Ella, are, I understand, congratulating themselves over the advancement they have made in the science of rollerskating. It now only requires one gentleman to hold them upon their skates."

But the contributor for the Doverdale local items maintained that the rinks were a 'disgrace to society' and were attended by social bums and deadbeats who wanted nothing more than a glimpse of the 'loveliness of the female form'.

Naturally, the county and state fairs were great cultural events. Hendricks county residents attended the county fair with great expectations. It is noted in the 1873 Hendricks County Union that at the county fair "the balloon ascension was a success, 'tho it caught fire before it was ready to be loosed. The aeronaut preferred to risk his life in a balloon on fire than to face that crowd if he failed to make the ascent."

The stories recorded in these sheets of newsprint are perhaps a newspaper's greatest asset. Personal little tales, evidence of a time when people could laugh at each other and with each other with no shadow of animosity.

"Of six hundred twelve young ladies who fainted last year, more than half of them fell into the arms of gentlemen. Only three had the misfortune to fall on the floor."



"Wanted--an instrument that will count and register for one week the number of times Howard Walls says 'you are off your nest.'"

"Edward Kurtz still shies at mudholes. We don't blame him, it is a bad place to be in, especially on Sunday evenings."

"Jim Davidson and Jim Pennington couldn't agree about who should ride a horse. Pennington, instead of using the bridle to ride the horse, used it to batter Davidson's face. D. brought suit at Danville and P. laid his case before an Eel River JP. Result: Pennington's expense about \$18.00, Davidson came clear."

"The cutest saying we have heard this year was that of the young gentleman who said 'he had two sisters, and they were both girls.'"

"One Sunday morning not very long ago, Ves Jessup hitched up a wild, unbroken Texan pony to a road cart, and drove to Mooresville. Just at the edge of town the pony became frightened at a dog that ran out to bark at him, and taking the bit in his teeth, dashed down the street at the top of his speed, the dog straining every nerve to keep up. The neighboring canines took in the situation and joined in the chase, until Ves, who is of a modest and retiring disposition--not given to making ostentatious displays of himself at home, much less in a strange place--estimated that there were at least a dozen of the yelping brutes after him. As they dashed by the Friends Church, the congregation was just leaving, and the people gazed in astonishment at the novel sight, apparently not able to decide whether it was a cowboy trying to take the town or the professor of a dog show exercising his troupe. A little further on the pony kicked over the shaft, and Ves succeeded in stopping the frightened animal."

The Central Normal College column in 1879 contained this warning: "Cats, dogs, and other animals suitable for illustrations in comparative anatomy had better steer clear of the College as the medical department is out of subjects."

February, 1873, must have been a particularly hazardous month for Danville's pedestrians and a particularly amusing month for the Hendricks County Union's editor.

"Col. Nave is decidedly of the opinion that it is impossible for a man to sit down upon a flagstone with vim enough to break it. He tried the project Monday on a legal expedition to the Court House."

"Charles Soper, while ascending the slippery path that leads up to the temple of justice, last Monday morning, threw himself into all the various attitudes of a first-class contortionist; and, finally, after a sudden and adroit movement sideways--like a hog at war--succeeded in gaining the steps."

Like any other businesses, newspapers sometimes had difficulty collecting past due accounts with their subscribers. "An exchange says that a man who came very near drowning had a wonderful recollection of every incident of his life. If danger of being drowned has a tendency to sharpen a man's memory, we shouldn't regret to see about a hundred of our delinquent subscribers in water where they couldn't wade. Perhaps they would recollect that they had subscribed for the Advertiser and never paid for it."

There is one last story I would like to read to you. The article appears in the April 24, 1873, Hendricks County Union on the third page and I for one consider it quite a treasure. In its entirety it reads: "Last Friday while the

train on the Vandalia road was stopping at Coatesville, a bystander who had been a soldier in the late war, suddenly exclaimed, 'My God boys, here's old Grant!' The General hearing this came out on the platform and was immediately surrounded by a crowd who shook him heartily by the hand."

Needless to say, I was quite excited at having General US Grant in Hendricks county. However, credit goes to Jan Woodrum for pointing out to me that in 1873 Ulysses S. Grant was President of the United States after having been reelected to a second term in 1872. One of our nation's most beloved presidents makes an unplanned, unannounced stop in Coatesville and the newspaper article, published on the third page, refers to him only as General Grant. Compare that to President Reagan's recent visit.

Our county newspapers are the repositories of untold wealth. Local items from obscure little places like Needmore, Kinderhook, Pleasant Ridge, Green Valley, Tilden, Stanford, Sugar Grove, and Cherry Grove; notices of strawberry socials, new oyster bars, performances of the Danville Silver Cornet Band, the local baseball scores, the county's efforts to obtain gravel roads throughout, Danville's fight for a town clock and street lamps, the cholera epidemic, and the disastrous fires; the bygone excitements, gossips, and tragedies which serve as a balance between the familiar and the remote.

The Guilford Township Historical Society, established in the fall of 1962, held its first meeting early in 1963. During the 1987-88 program year, the Society will be celebrating its 25th anniversary.

The GTHS issues a special invitation to members of the Hendricks County Historical Society to attend GTHS meetings during the coming year. The meeting schedule is as follows:

#### GUILFORD TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1987 - 1988

October 22, 1987

7:30 P.M.

Plainfield Public Library  
Room C

Program - The Northwest Ordinance

Esther Carter

January 28, 1988

7:30 P.M.

Plainfield Public Library  
Room C

Program - The 25th Anniversary  
Celebration of the G.T.H.S.

Carolyn Kellum



March 24, 1988

7:30 P.M.

Plainfield Public Library  
Room C

Program - Plainfield Tri Kappa  
Delta Pi, 50th Anniversary

Debby Rhoades Rodney

Hosts

May 26, 1988

7:30 P.M.

Plainfield Public Library  
Room C

Program - History of Boy  
Scouting in Plainfield

Don Lamb and Bob Crews

July 28, 1988

5:30 P.M.

Picnic -

To Be Announced

Program - Farming, Yesterday  
and Today

Frank Gladden

Officers of the Guilford Township Historical Society are: John C. Miller,  
President, Harriet R. Craven, Vice-President, Esther Stafford, Secretary, and  
Dorothy Carneal, Treasurer. For further information, call John C. Miller at  
839-6883.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

1987 - 1988

October 25, 1987

January 28, 1988

7:30 P.M.

7:30 P.M.



HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
BOX 128  
DANVILLE, IN 46122

Patricia Cox  
310 Urban  
Danville IN 46122

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U. S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
DANVILLE, IN  
PERMIT #303