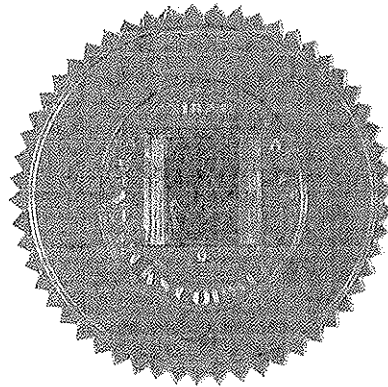


HENDRICKS COUNTY

HISTORY BULLETIN



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THE HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DANVILLE, INDIANA

From the President

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

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

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

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

Margaret Baker (Mrs. Rawleigh Baker)
President

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

Sherman G. Crayton,
Chairman, Membership Committee

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Margaret Baker

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

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

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

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

MRS. NELLIE BEAGLEY PRESIDING

PROGRAM

BROWNSBURG JUNIOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY, "ARCHEOLOGICAL DIG"

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

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

PLAINFIELD HIGH SCHOOL HISTORY CLUB

"Old Ironsides," Mark Ewald, Speaker

"American Indian," John Albright, Speaker

SOCIAL HOUR, UNION TOWNSHIP IN CHARGE

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

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

WANT TO HELP?

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

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

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

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

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

FIND OUR MISTAKES . . . THEN TELL US

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

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

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

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

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

HOOSIERS OF HENDRICKS

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

Here are their questions:

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

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

AMIEL HUNT'S STORE IN SPRINGFIELD

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

What did people wear? There is no record of the sale of any kind of ready-to-wear clothing except shoes, hats, bonnets, shawls and other accessories. Shoes sold for 1.37 $\frac{1}{2}$ or 1.75, or only .37 $\frac{1}{2}$ for "1 pr shoose, small." A pair of mittens was .25,

while a pair of socks might be $.33\frac{1}{3}$, $.37\frac{1}{2}$, or even $.50$. There was a hat at 3.00 , a tusken (?) bonnet at 3.00 , and a drab fur hat at 4.25 .

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

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

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

Which was used for undergarments? From the very small quantities of some fabrics usually purchased ($1\frac{1}{2}$ yd mulmuslin, $\frac{1}{2}$ yd swis muslin, $\frac{3}{4}$ yd buckram) it might be assumed that these were used for trimming, stiffening, or a spot of white at the neckline. Why are there very few purchases of sufficient vardage to make a woman's dress or a man's coat? We find $14\frac{1}{2}$ yds tow linen, $3\frac{3}{4}$ vrds drab cloth, $5\frac{1}{2}$ yds shirting, 15 yds Liney (or linsy). Was there another store within reach that offered a better selection where one might go for the larger purchases?

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

The list of notions in Amiel Hunt's store has a more familiar ring. However one item, a bonet (or bonnet) board at $.06\frac{1}{4}$ has us guessing. Was it the stiffening for a woman's sun bonnet or go-to-meeting bonnet? Almost everyone bought one now and then.

For $.06\frac{1}{4}$ you could buy a thimble or 1 spire (?) and needles, or $\frac{1}{2}$ doz needles, or 2 darning needles, or 1 doz horn shirt buttons. Also listed were 1 doz mettle buttons, $.18$; 10 horn buttons, $.14$; $\frac{1}{2}$ doz basten buttons, small, $.03$ and $1\frac{1}{2}$ doz button molds, $.06$. One pr. scissors cost a dollar; 1 set knitting pins, $.10$, $1\frac{1}{2}$ set knitting pins, $.10$; $1\frac{1}{2}$ yds ribin from $.25$ to $.37\frac{1}{2}$; $\frac{1}{4}$ skeins of thread, $.12$; or a bunch of thread, $.05$.

We find no evidance that anyone ever bought a package of cake mix or Shake 'n Bake at Amiel Hunt's store. There was salt or flour at $.03$ a pound; sugar or butter or rice at $.10$ a pound; and coffee at $.20$. Eggs were $.04$ to $.6\frac{1}{4}$ a dozen. "Peper" was usually sold at $\frac{1}{2}$ lb for $.12\frac{1}{2}$. For $.06\frac{1}{4}$ you could buy $\frac{1}{2}$ pound of ginger or allspice or 1 oz of cinnamon bark or nutmeg. A "greater" for the nutmeg was $.06$. Two cakes of chocolate cost $.25$, and $\frac{1}{4}$ lb of loaf sugar brought $.09$. For $.50$ you could buy a bushel of potatoes or corn meal. Two bushels of corn for $.80$ perhaps were made into corn meal. "Fouls" were sold at three for $.25$, cheese at $.10$ a pound or less. In one instance 41 lbs of bacon were sold for 2.46 .

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

$\frac{1}{2}$ set plates	.15	1 set china teas	1.00
2 glass tumblers	.16 $\frac{2}{3}$	1 set fancy plates	.81 $\frac{1}{2}$
$\frac{1}{4}$ tin cups	.33 $\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{1}{4}$ cut glass tumblers	.75
$\frac{1}{2}$ set table spoons	.28	3 Crittana (?) tumblers	.56 $\frac{1}{2}$
1 soop plate	.12 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 pitcher, gilded	.62 $\frac{1}{2}$
1 bole	.15	1 ladel	.43 $\frac{3}{4}$
1 set knives & forks	1.37 or 1.50		
1 butter plate	.10 or .12 $\frac{1}{2}$		

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

In the process of preparing a meal the housewife used such as these:

1 tin pan	.50	1 tin bucket	.37, .50 or .75
1 2-qt pan	.25	1 wash pan	.37 $\frac{1}{2}$
2 edge pans	.25	1 butcher knife	1 ¹⁸ 3/4
1 set iron spoons	.12 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 teakettle	1.12 $\frac{1}{2}$
1 dipper	.18 3/4	1 coffee boiler	1.50
2 pint cups	.16 2/3	1 lap coffee mill	1.31 $\frac{1}{2}$

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

1 speade	1.00	1 shoe hammer	.25
1 weeding hoe	.50	1 paper sparrow bills	.12 $\frac{1}{2}$
1 hand saw file	.12 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 grindstone	2.50
1/2 doz all blades	.06 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 grass scithe	1.50, 1.25
2 small dore bolts	.20	1 cradleing Scithe	1.75
27 lbs nails	3.37 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 Yanky scith stone	1 ¹⁸ 3/4
7 pains glass	.35	1 bolt	.12 $\frac{1}{2}$
1 inch chisel	.43 3/4	1 rasp	.50
40 lbs castings	3.20	1 inch augur	1 ¹⁸ 3/4
2 doz screws	.20 or .25	1 meal sive	.62 $\frac{1}{2}$
1 paper tax	.12 $\frac{1}{2}$	1/2 lb putty	1 ¹⁸ 3/4
5 IB nails for Meeting House (dated 1/4/39)	.62 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 sheets sandpaper	.18
1 till locks	.20	2 pinchers	.43 3/4
1 rim lock	1.50	1 pr steelyards 200 lb	2.50
1 chest lock	.18 3/4	1 iron wedge	.68 3/4
1 sash locks	1.50	1 steel blade square	.75
2 but hinges	.28	1 english rule	.50
11 1/2 lbs rod iron	.72 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 plow line	.12 $\frac{1}{2}$
6 lb round iron	.75	1 small gimlet	.10
1 1/4 lb A blister steel	1 ¹⁸ 3/4	1 trowel	.81 $\frac{1}{2}$
1 foot adz	1.75	1 pr shovel & tongs	1.00
1 1/2 yds wire	.03	7 scutcheons (?)	.14
1 plain bit	.50	1 reflector	2.75
1 bridle	1.50	1 large bell	1.00
2 pair bridle bits	.20	4 kegs	2.00
1 double bit	.81 $\frac{1}{4}$	2 kegs	37 $\frac{1}{2}$, 56 $\frac{1}{4}$, .93
1 curry comb	.12 $\frac{1}{2}$	1/2 doz flints	.06 $\frac{1}{4}$
1 pr horse phlegms (?)	.37 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 1/2 lb lead	1 ¹⁸
1 pr trace chains	1.62 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 powder kegs	.50
1 steel trap	.50	1/2 lb powder	.25

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

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

For the toilet there was:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

8 yds tow linen	1.20	88 ft. ceiling plank at .87 $\frac{1}{2}$	2.50
Rent of smith tools & shop 12 months	10.00	3 fowls at 6 $\frac{1}{4}$.18 $3/4$
1 doz fowls	1.00	oats	5.00
work	1.00	2 deerskins	.50
feathers . . . 3 $3/4$ lb	1.50	$4\frac{1}{2}$ lbs rags	.13 $\frac{1}{2}$
Hauling 2431 lb from Cincinnati to		2 pare of socks	1.00
Richmond	48.62	4 coon skins	.62 $\frac{1}{2}$
making bellows	10.00	1 fox skin	.20
1 collar	1.25	Bellows leather	6.00
2 mc. tending store @ \$13.00	26.00	1 backband	.75
$3\frac{1}{4}$ lb butter	.40	14 doz eggs	.58
20 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs lard	1.62	$\frac{1}{2}$ doz fowls at .75	.37 $\frac{1}{2}$
One load of coal from Clay		Lot of shingles	3.84
County (1851)	6.00	$1\frac{1}{2}$ bu. flaxseed	1.05
2 $2/3$ yds linsey	1.33 $1/3$	4 yds flax linen	.90

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

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

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

DUST FROM THE ARCHIVES

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

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

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

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

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

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

Now for some specific items:

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

Photographs--The subject should be identified or obvious.

Personal records--Diaries and letters.

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

Genealogies--Complete or rough notes.

Other items too numerous to mention.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The first schools were usually three months in length starting in September, if they were to be winter schools. Those beginning in March or April were called summer schools. The teacher received about \$2.00 per pupil for the term. These were called subscription schools. Then there was no public money to hire teachers. The patrons furnished the building, and fire when needed. The teacher usually boarded round with patrons. The parents rarely sent all their children to school the same year. As money was hard to get, and anyway the older children had to stay at home to help with the work. They usually subscribed $1\frac{1}{2}$ or 2 pupils. A half pupil went half the term, and sometimes two would go just enough to make the time of one.

The following is a copy of an old school contract:

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

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

The following are the subscribers and the number of pupils:

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

There were only two other log school houses in the township that we are able to learn of, one of these was about where Joseph Warrick lives and the other was called Helton School, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile east of the Hamilton School site on the south of the present road. This is where Grandmother Leach went to school. Her father took her the first day and blazed the trail thru the woods so she would not get lost. The cabin was built in the thick brush and one could see but a few feet from the window.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

School Funds drawn by J. L. Leak for Union Township May 17, 1858:

Common School Fund	\$ 375.43
Int. on Twp. 17N, Range 1 West	<u>97.87</u>
	\$ 473.10

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

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

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

Inspector, Anderson Leach
Abraham Hamilton
Lewis Leak

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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