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HENDRICKS COUNTY

HISTORY BULLETIN



VOLUME

XV

NUMBER

III

AUGUST 1984

PUBLISHED BY

THE HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DANVILLE, INDIANA

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HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

ORGANIZED 1967

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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
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Tel. 745-2115

Life is no brief candle to me. It is sort of a splendid torch which I have to hold for the moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations.

George Bernard Shaw

FROM OUR PRESIDENT.....

If you are a history addict, as several of our members are, you do not limit yourself to attendance at four meetings a year. You may branch out into genealogy, or you may become involved in an anniversary celebration of some historic event.

In 1878, when the Danville United Methodist Church observed its sesquicentennial, Grace Cox and Margaret Baker produced a history of the local church. Now they are updating this work because of the 200th anniversary of Methodism on December 24, 1984.

Dalta Hodson has performed the same service for the Methodist Church of Amo.

Frances Fisher is knee-deep in the history of Pittsboro, which celebrates its sesquicentennial from September 20 - 24, 1984. She has written a pageant to be enacted on September 20 and again on September 23 at 8:00 p.m. at the Pittsboro gymnasium. Many are trying out for roles in the cast. Frances is also compiling a history of Pittsboro from contributions of several other people.

North Salem will be 150 years old in 1985. Local history buffs there have already been making plans for a year.

We commend our friends for their enthusiasm and diligence. This is one kind of addiction that arouses no objection from the surgeon general.

Lois Crayton

MAY MEETING

The Stilesville Baptist Church hosted the meeting of the society Sunday, May 6th. Irene Clark opened the meeting with an interesting account of the beginnings of the church. After the usual business, Dorothy Kelley told of the books recently received from the Court House and of the task of cleasing, sorting and organizing and storing them.

The speaker, Robert Lawson, Dublin, Indiana, was introduced by Ruth Pritchard, and he gave a most fascinating story of the NATIONAL ROAD THROUGH HENDRICKS COUNTY. He told of an English family, consisting of the parents, 11 children, and a wide assortment of pets and their experiences traveling from Indianapolis in 1851.

Maxine McHaffie Evans and Robert McHaffie of Carmel, descendants of Melville F. McHaffie, told of life in the McHaffie House, located west of Stilesville. Built in the 1870's, the beautiful old home is undergoing a long-range process of restoration. A recent addition to the National Register of Historic Places it will be a stately monument to our heritage and a landmark to make Hendricks County proud.

Following a social hour, several of our members drove out to look over the old home.

AUGUST MEETING

the 5th

WATCH FOR THE SIGNS!!!!

CLAY TOWNSHIP will be in the spotlight August 5th, when we meet at the Amo Methodist Church at 2:00 o'clock. Clay Township used to be a bee hive of activity with three bustling, thriving towns.... Reno, Pecksburg and Springtown. Railroads, however, and highways and progress have changed things, and these interesting places are now only a memory. The Program Committee feels that Historical Society members should remember these places, so, on your way to or from the meeting, look for the signs that Robert Carter, president, has placed to mark the spot. Ruth Fuson will tell us all about these Ghost Towns.

Dalta Hobson will give a short history of the Amo Methodist Church and Betty Jo Bartley will read some exerps from the Horace Greeley Masten Diary.

Sounds like another super meeting. Don't miss it!

MUSEUM MUSINGS

On Sunday, June 10, 1984 the Hendricks County Historical Museum held an open house celebrating its 10th anniversary, and its placement on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Hendricks County Historical Society held fashion shows at the Golden Rule Nursing Home at Danville, and the Golden Manor Nursing Home at Brownsburg. Clothes modeled were from the museum and went back several decades. Tots clothing as well as adults was modeled. "I had a dress like that!", "I had a hat like that!" were the remarks heard often during the presentation. The old-fashioned baby dolls the little girls carried were favorites.

Several clubs have held meetings at the museum recently. Some, whose group hadn't met recently with us have found we have changed a bit.

Haven't seen the squirrel recently! As you know, Wa Pe Ke Way Chapter of D.A.R. planted a Shingle Oak on the lawn of the museum some years ago. It hadn't been planted many months when the neighborhood squirrel attempted to climb it--and fell off! The little oak is true to its kind and is growing like an oak--sturdy. It would hold him now.

The museum received 10 account books from the former Thompson Drug Company. One could have a pretty good idea of the community life at that time. There is a book of prescriptions dating from the 1800's to approximately the middle 1900's. Most were from Danville doctors, but a few were from other doctors in the county. That drug store touched many lives in the community. We were sorry to see it close.

The museum received a plaque that Central Normal College had presented to the late Ned Herrington. It contained pictures of family and friends. Mr. and Mrs. Herrington were always extending a helping hand and it was very much appreciated.

The museum is fortunate to receive two books pertaining to the history of Hendricks County. "So Brief a Frontier", by Don Alan Hall, tells of Lizton and Union Township from wilderness days down through the years. "The Story of Central Normal College", by Robert A. Brown, tells us of the school's existence from 1878 to 1946 and the impact it had on education. There are lots of memories for not only former students, but for the community as well.

Jewell

ANNOUNCEMENT

The community of Pittsboro, Indiana is celebrating its 150th birthday in September. We would greatly appreciate any assistance you can provide in helping us publicize our celebration. Enclosed you will find a copy of the schedule of events. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me (892-4222).

Linda Cowley
Publicity Chairman
Box 32
Pittsboro, Indiana 46167

SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

PITTSBORO, INDIANA

September 15	....	9:00	Theta Alpha Kappa Sorority's Country Cupboard Craft Fair
		10:30	Trap Shoot sponsored by the Pittsboro Jaycees
September 16	....	1:00	Golf Scramble
September 19	....	7:00	Opening Ceremonies
		7:30	Community Sing and Musical Program
September 20	....	5:00	P.T.E.O. Open House
			Reception for Past Teachers
			Historical School Display
			Supper
		8:00	Historical Pageant
September 21	....		Merchant's Night
			Bingo
			Outdoor Movies
September 22	....	8:00	Hot Air Balloon Race
			Breakfast
		10:00	Church Open Houses
		2:00	Parade
		5:00	Games, Contests, Awards
		6:00	Supper
		8:00	Fireworks
		9:00	Street Dance
September 23	....	9:00	Breakfast
		11:00	Community Church Service
		1:00	Picnic
		2:00	Ultralight Air Show
			Entertainment and Games
		8:00	Historical Pageant
			Closing Vespers

Happenings throughout the celebration:

Self-guided Historical sites tour
Beard contest
Bonnet contest
Memorbilia displays

THE AMO SCHOOL

(The following history of Amo School was taken from the Handbook of Clay Township High School, Amo, Indiana, 1941-42. This handbook was part of the material received by the Danville Public Library from the estate of Melvin and Velva Sturgeon.)

...About 1868 the first school building was erected on the present location. This was really a movement akin to the centralized school since it was made possible by the abandonment of small districts. The building was a brick two-story structure of four rooms built in the conventional style of the prevailing school architecture of that day. From the very beginning there were some high school subjects taught, but no definite course of study, the branches chosen being those most popular with the whim or ability of the teacher or the whim of the students.

The high school probably was the most nearly standardized about 1875 under the principalship of W. E. Lugenbeel. The traditional reports would indicate that this period was really the high tide for the school prior to the real organization of the present high school system. During the twenty years, from 1875 to 1895, the school had its lean years, with no higher branches taught, with now and then a revival of some genuine worthy work done in both the grades and the high school.

In the early nineties the school did nothing except in the grade studies. The students of the township seeking advanced work were obliged to find it away from home. At one time there were more than twenty attending Central Academy from the limits of the present high school district.

The township trustees of Hendricks County, taking their offices in 1895, were nearly all favorable to the establishment of township high schools, and it was from that date that Amo has had an energetic working high school system.

The school was especially fortunate in having for its first teacher a young man endowed with the ability to inspire students to want the best and to do their best. This man was Richard Warren Barrett. The imprint of his tireless energy and real worth as a leader of students is felt not only by those who were fortunate enough to be in his school, but the entire community is stronger for the foundation that was given. The school term was cut short his first year by lack of funds, and Mr. Barrett gave his services free for an extra month of school. In the first year no attempt was made to do work in advance of simply one year of higher work. The next year a two-year course was given and so on until the four years' course was established. The first year's enrollment was twenty-one, but it was the beginning of a work that has been followed up with consistent and persistent efforts until it compares very favorably with the best that there is in the state.

A new house built in 1899 was destroyed by fire on Monday, March 14, 1904. Another school building was built the following summer and was dedicated in October. This building was struck by lightning in August 1913 and burned. The present building was built in 1914.

The first class graduated March 23, 1902. The class consisted of Bernice Owen, Carl Hawley, Ella McCollum, Warner Hockett, Ruth Rogers, Claude O'Neil, Carrie Kersey, Willie Ellis, and Edna Wright, with Professor Miller as teacher.

The first four year graduation class was in 1905. The first school paper, "The Blue and White", was published in 1904 and has been published off and on ever since. A commission was granted the school in 1907.

Amo High School continued developing and enlarging. Its physical plant was greatly improved in 1936 by the construction of a wonderful gymnasium. The realization of this project may be largely attributed to the Clay Township Trustee, J. D. Coffin, and his Advisory Board: Otto Whicker, President; Morris J. Hadley, Secretary; and Leland West. The gymnasium has a seating capacity of 600, a playing floor 50 feet by 75 feet, and a stage beautifully furnished with gray back drops and a blue velvet curtain.

In the summer of 1940 the old gymnasium was miraculously converted into a play room and classroom. Walls were painted, new lighting fixtures installed, and much equipment purchased.

The curriculum likewise has been improved. Vocational home economics was introduced in 1939 and vocational agriculture in 1940. A full time science and math teacher was employed in 1940 and a complete science department was established. Many courses have been added to the curriculum, and the student attending Amo High School can elect the courses which will equip him for his life's work.

AMO METHODIST CHURCH

(1867 - 1984)

By Dalta Hodson

As far as can be ascertained, a group of dedicated Christians met in homes in Springtown as far back as the 1850's. Lewis Roberts served as minister.

In the 1830's many families came from New England to settle in what was then known as The Western Plains ... Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. Among these were two families - the John and Sarah Mastens and the Jesse and Mary Wilson Hodsons, who, in 1867, deeded property for a church.

Started in 1867, the building was completed in 1868 at a cost of \$2,000. Membership numbered 20 with then such familiar names as Casner, Champion, Stanley, Tincher, Newman and others.

A partnership minister arrangement was established with Coatesville in the 1880's and has remained thus with the exception of 1896-1905; 1951-58, when we affiliated with Fillmore; and in 1958-61, when we affiliated with Cartersburg.

The original building was of wood. Later a second frame building replaced the original. And in 1916, a major expansion and repair project was started including basement, toilets, class rooms and kitchen. The main floor was expanded and beautiful stained glass windows installed. These were gifts from individual families. The exterior was of brick and has remained that way since.

The Methodist Church has undergone several name changes. In Amo, in 1867, it was the Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1939-40, the Methodists and Episcopalians separated and we became the Methodist Church. In 1972, the Methodist Church joined the United Brethren and became the United Methodist Church, which we remain today.

As Methodists, membership, in 1885, was 35 and Sunday School had become a part of church worship. With six classes, un-named - just numbered. As membership warranted, charters were granted and the Men's Class became the Never Fail, the women became the Sterling Seekers; teen agers, the Royal Blue; the intermediate, the Juniors; kindergarten and 1st graders, the Primary; and the babes and toddlers, the Cradle Roll.

During this time, and when we were Methodist Episcopal, The Ladies Aid and the Ladies Home Missionary Society functioned. Later, these organizations combined and became the Women's Society of Christian Service (WSSS). And in 1972, when we became the United Methodist Church, the ladies' group became the United Methodist Women and the men the United Methodist Men.

The following poem best expresses this little church's spirit and the members' feeling toward their house of worship and God's work:

The Church

There's a little church at the edge of town
A community center for miles around,
Organized and built in pioneer days
By people that loved and revered God's ways.

They were the salt of all the earth
We have only to check to determine their worth.
All down the years they have done and gone
And the ranks were filled as some passed on.

The church is a sacred place to us all
Twas here we first received the Master's call
Here we meet to worship and praise
Pray and sing and our petitions raise.

From here we carry our dearest friends
When their trials, troubles and sorrow ends
It's here we bring the young and gay
And start them off in the Master's way.

Of all the buildings great and small
The little church is the grandest of all.
For the influence that goes out through the channels of life
Greatly helps take care of sorrow, trouble and strife.

We should be mindful of the church today
And keep it sacred in every way
The building is only a structure of wood -
It's Christ in its members that makes it good.

If we profess Him for our guiding star
Let us not try to follow Him afar
But with kindred spirits come to the shrine
Built by others; now yours and mine.

Let's hand it down to generations to come
As a structure worthy to call God's home
In honor of Him who gave his all
To any that are willing to answer His call

Roscoe Edwards, Member 1890-1940s.

NEWS FROM THE INDIANA ROOM

BY BETTY JO BARTLEY

DANVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

The staff of the Indiana Room was present at the Central Normal College Reunion, held at Danville on June 23. Displays of photographs, yearbooks, and other materials from the Indiana Room collection were set up at the Junior High and High School buildings. Several of the alumni who stopped to chat with us expressed interest in donating materials to our collection. The Danville Public Library has the largest collection of material on CNC in the state, but most of our collection is from the early years of the college, before 1930. We have very few photographs or memorabilia for the later years of the college. We would like to remind any Hendricks County Historical Society members who are CNC alumni that we are interested in preserving the history of Central Normal, and welcome donations of photos, programs, yearbooks, etc.

The library has recently received materials that will be of interest to members of the Historical Society. Mrs. Virginia Reklis donated a number of back issues of Kentucky Historical Society publications, that will be of interest to those researching families with a Kentucky connection.

The other acquisition is a large collection of papers and other materials from the estate of Melvin I. Sturgeon. Mr. Sturgeon was a former Superintendent of Schools in Hendricks County, and a resident of Danville for many years. His wife, Velva E. Coffin Sturgeon, was also connected with education in this county, having taught at Amo, Clayton, and Danville. The Sturgeon collection is an important addition to our library's local history collection. It includes items such as yearbooks from various schools in the county, programs for plays and commencements, and a large collection of mimeographed high school newspapers.

CENTRAL NORMAL COLLEGE

The Indiana Room of the Danville Public Library has the largest collection of CNC material in the State, and a recent addition to that is THE STORY OF CENTRAL NORMAL COLLEGE 1878-1946 by Robert A. Brown. A 200-plus page book, it is a fascinating story of the old school with many pictures and copies of catalogues and quarterlies. It is of great interest to anyone who ever attended or graduated from Central Normal College or had parents or relatives who did.

Blanche Wean has mentioned that she is interested in getting a more comprehensive history of CNC, and to that end, Ruth Pritchard has come up with a list of those civic minded citizens of Danville who pooled their assets to raise \$10,000 to purchase the Academy building from the Methodists in order to make way for Central Normal College. This is a result of a 10-year search and is certainly a most valuable addition to the history.

These raised the money to buy the Danville
Academy from the Methodists

"ABOUT 125 OTHER DIVERS CITIZENS"

Page 504 Order Book 23 (10-30-1880) Clerk's Office

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Acton, George W. | 41. Hadley, Nicholas T. |
| 2. Adams, Solomon T. | 42. Hall, Elisha H. |
| 3. Anthony, Obed | 43. Hall, John K. |
| 4. Bain, John | 44. Harding, George |
| 5. Bartholomew, Bradley | 45. Harlan, Conrad |
| 6. Barton, John B. | 46. Harlan, J.B. |
| 7. Bell, Allen N. | 47. Hart, Aaron |
| 8. Bell, James P. | 48. Hawkins, Samuel L. |
| 9. Bellow, James | 49. Haynes, William F. |
| 10. Blake, Richard B. | 50. Hogate, Enoch G. |
| 11. Bousman, John | 51. Homan, Joseph B. |
| 12. Bryant, Asbury | 52. House, George W. |
| 13. Buntain, William H. | 53. Howell, Benjamin Franklin |
| Campbell, Leander M. | 54. Howell, Henry |
| 14. Cash, William H. | 55. Huber, Jacob |
| 15. Chamberlain, George | 56. Hunt, Cyrus Lee |
| 16. Chambers, Alexander | 57. Huston, Hamilton |
| 17. Christie, Frank | 58. Hutchings, William |
| 18. Clark, Thomas | 59. Irvin, William |
| 19. Cooper, William D. (Estate of
Inda R. Cooper, deceased) | 60. Jeffries, William |
| 20. Cox, Willis M. | 61. Johnson, Thomas W. |
| 21. Craddick, Samuel | 62. Jones, Thomas N. |
| 22. Crawford, Mary J. | 63. Keeney, John I. |
| 23. Curtis, Henry | 64. Kennedy, Leroy H. |
| 24. Darnell, Franklin | 65. King, E. Douglas |
| 25. Dempsey, James | 66. Lawson, Robert A. |
| 26. Depew, Marshall F. | 67. Lawson, William G. |
| 27. Dickerson, Henry L. | 68. Lewis, James |
| 28. Donel, John O. | 69. Marsh, Julius |
| 29. Dooley, John W. | 70. McCoun, Edward |
| 30. Ellsworth, John | 71. McCoun, James L. (Guardian of
Herman M. Smith a person of
unsound mind) |
| 31. Ensminger, Samuel P. | 72. McKenzie, William A. |
| 32. Estep, John W. (estate of
William L. Estep, deceased) | 73. McClean, Allen H. |
| 33. Furnas, Allen | 74. McClellen, William R. |
| 34. Gregg, Edward | 75. McCurdy, Charles G. |
| 35. Gregg, James M. | 76. McCurdy, James F. |
| 36. Gregg, Washington | 77. McPhetridge, William H. |
| 37. Hadley, Cyrus | 78. Mesler, John |
| 38. Hadley, Evan | 79. Money, John |
| 39. Hadley, Madison G. | 80. Moore, Jacob K. |
| 40. Hadley, Milton E. | 81. Moore, Samuel H. |

"ABOUT 125 OTHER DIVERS CITIZENS"

(Continued)

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 82. Morgan, James W. | 104. Stewart, William |
| 83. Neiger, Frederick | 105. Talbott, William A. |
| 84. Nichols, Oliver E. | 106. Talbott, Willis |
| 85. Nichols, Thomas | 107. Thomas, Benjamin F. |
| 86. Nichols, William H. | 108. Thompson, Arthur G. |
| 87. O'Haver, Annie | 109. Thompson, Cyrus L. |
| 88. Osborn, Elijah C. | 110. Tinder, Elijah M. |
| 89. Osborn, Wyatt | 111. Tinder, Joel T. |
| 90. Parker, James O. | 112. Towles, Alfred |
| 91. Piersol, Isaac | 113. Towles, Robert P. |
| 92. Pierson, Isaac | 114. Vannice, Harvey N. |
| 93. Pounds, Archibald P. | 115. Vestal, John N. |
| 94. Powell, Thomas O. | 116. Wade, Robert |
| 95. Rawlings, Leatidus | 117. Wade, William |
| 96. Searce, George W. | 118. Watts, Lewis S. |
| 97. Searce, Nathan J. | 119. Wayland, George W. |
| 98. Shoffner, Fitinany | 120. Welshans, Alfred |
| 99. Showalter, J. Alva | 121. Welshans, Thomas |
| 100. Smith, William | 122. White, Charles A. |
| 101. Soper, Charles | 123. Wilhoit, John |
| 102. Steel, Samuel W. | 124. Wills, Eldridge C. |
| 103. Stevens, John H. | 125. Wishard, John O. |

Ruth M. Pritchard
July 12, 1984

In connection with the conclusion of THE MITCHELL MANSION, Ruth tells us that the old house was a contemporary of Central Normal-Canterbury College and the two earlier schools. The Hendricks County Seminary was incorporated in 1837, the same year the first part of the old house was built. The demise of both came close together - The MANSION in 1950 and the college in 1951.

THE MITCHELL MANSION

(Continued)

One cow might have jumped over the moon but this cow jumped over the wagon, really. We four girls decided it was time to learn how to milk the cow. Since the cow's udder had provision for four students to practice simultaneously, we positioned our selves two to a side. Our brother, Thurman stood behind. We compensated the cow for this extra duty in the middle of the day and in the middle of the barn lot, with a wagon full of corn heaped high, (the wagon was a toy but a good sized one). The ears of corn were big and not broken into nubbin sized pieces as Papa did for cow feed. In harmony this voluntary vocational training operation began. We never knew what changed the cows mind but after a few seconds, from a standing position she made a high broad jump, cleared the wagon and galloped away. We four girls with one accord arose and stood gaping after the galloping cow. That much corn might have disagreed with her any way.

Canning of fruits and vegetables was not too different from what it is now. The most tedious and tiresome part of this process was seeding cherries. Two things kept us at that task until it was finished. We never questioned Mamma's authority and we well knew what delicious pies she could make.

Butchering hogs appeared to be a neighborhood job, and the neighbors came early on butchering day. There were barrels of scalding water, long tables where the meat was cut and many wash tubs for holding the different items. The rendering of lard, grinding and seasoning sausage and curing of bacon, hams and shoulders was all very particular work. The butchering day dinners were memorable times of fellowship as well as a big variety of food.

Threshing and hay making times were also occasions of work sharing and big dinners.

The up-to-date home laundry involved much time and labor. The water had to be pumped, carried, heated and then poured into the hand operated wood-tub washing machine. That machine sure did beat rubbing clothes on a wash board. After the clothes had been run through the hot suds (and the white ones boiled) and the two or three rinses, the water was to be emptied and all the equipment put away. The clothes were dried outside except in the severest of winter weather. Nothing surpasses that fresh air scent of out-door dried laundry. In very bad weather clothes were dried on racks around the living room stove. The ironing was done with six and seven pound flat irons heated on the kitchen stove.

There were still some one room school houses in use when we three older girls started to school. Center Valley was one and we rode there to school in a horse-drawn school hack. It had benches along the sides and black curtains to be put down in winter and up in warm weather. I do not remember any heater. The door was in the back end.

Later when we went to the new consolidated school at Hazelwood we rode in a new school hack that had nice windows and a floor furnace. The ride was a two hour trip each morning and evening. In winter we left home before day light and arrived home after dark. We also had that quarter mile hike down the lane each morning and night. Often that unforgettable aroma of freshly baked bread greeted us as we burst into the house at evening.

During all our school years there were no religious restrictions. We were encouraged to memorize scripture verses. Some times prizes were awarded for such memory work. Teachers asked about Sunday school attendance.

Fire fighters between 1910 and 1920 may have been unorganized but they quickly responded in time of need. Volunteer fire fighters from the Mitchell "Mansion" sprang to action very early on April 11, 1917. Papa on his way to the barn for morning chores saw too much smoke arising from the Will Cook chimney and raced over that "well beaten path" to warn and to help the Cooks. Mamma seeing the sudden and unexplained departure, investigated. She then hurriedly telephoned neighbors, put Gladys and me in charge of the household and arrived at the Cook residence in time to get Uncle Milton out of the burning house. He had been brought out earlier but had gone back into his room without the family's knowledge. Some furniture was saved before the structure collapsed in a firey heap. Mamma helped renovate the old former dwelling house by sweeping, scrubbing etc. and helped get the Cooks moved into it. The Cooks were dinner guests at the "Mansion" that day.

As Papa was a pork producing farmer he bought corn for miles around to feed the hogs. For several years he hauled corn by wagon, using three side boards in order to haul bigger loads. It was a thrilling experience to ride with him on frequent corn hauling trips - to sit on that wagon seat so high. Those big Percheron horses looked so fat and so flat from that lofty perch. Besides talking about the country side through which we passed he would sing hymns, recite scripture memorized at the Friends Bloomingdale Academy and whistled much of the time. He probably answered hundreds of questions too.

Papa soon realized the advantage that a motor truck would be. When it was financially feasible he purchased a truck which proved to be in almost constant use on the farm. Papa also did considerable commercial hauling.

Our music training came by way of organ lessons from Flossie Love for Gladys and me. All four of us later had piano lessons from Vesta Easton (McClellan) who drove a Ford to our house. Edith would do the "start your engine" bit by cranking her Ford for her homeward drive or maybe another stop for more lessons.

Mitchell family church affiliation was with the North Branch Meeting of Friends until that meeting was laid down in the early 1920's. Then we started worshipping at the Salem Methodist Episcopal church.

Besides Sunday morning services of church school and preaching, we participated in various programs and class projects. We four girls were active in the Epworth League which met jointly with Belleville young people.

About 1924 Epworth Leagues of the Indianapolis District met at Garfield Park in Indianapolis, for a food drive for needy people. The old Poplar tin-doored pie safe from the Mitchell "Mansion" had a place of honor in this benevolent effort. Filled with many jars of canned fruit and vegetables it received first prize for quantity and design of display. This food was solicited by Epworth Leaguers throughout the community. How glad we were to have a part in such a worthwhile project.

The work table from the kitchen of the Mitchell "Mansion" was pressed into service on the Salem Church lawn when the Ladies Aid or the Willing Workers class gave ice cream festivals there. These socials by lantern light were times of merriment as well as for fund raising.

After the purchase of new song books in 1923 or 1924, a series of practice sessions was held in homes of the community to learn new songs. Some of these jolly meetings were held in the Mitchell "Mansion".

At other times teenagers took turns pedaling the player piano at the "Mansion". There were songs of long ago, some classical music, some much favored standard music, some of E. T. Paul's and John Philip Sousa's marches and some of the prettier popular songs.

The first automobile for the Mitchell family was a 1916 six cylinder Buick. It was a ten passenger car. That meant both parents and the two youngest children sat in the front seat while four girls wedged into the back seat. It was not a ten passenger car at first but grew in capacity as the family increased. Some times two brothers sat on their sisters' laps or on jump seats in front of the girls. We were crowded but did enjoy outings to Turkey Run, The Shades, the Caves and family picnics.

The old "Mansion" shuddered through many storms. The wind whistled down that old chimney on countless nights. Occupants of the "Mansion" lived through the Mexican War, The Civil War, The Spanish-American War, World War I and World War II. Its span of years covered travel by horse back, ox-cart, sailing vessels, steam ships, horse drawn vehicles, railroads, interurbans, automobiles and air planes. It had witnessed communication by letter, news paper, telegraph, telephone radio and television. The "Mansion" dwellers suffered more than one depression but the greatest of these was the depression of the 1930's.

That old house looked patient and the message lives on.

When the "Mansion" was razed in 1950, all serviceable material was salvaged for use in the construction of the house now standing on that same site.

Ruth Mitchell Pritchard
November 19, 1982

METHODISM BICENTENNIAL

In keeping with the Bi-Centennial Celebration of Methodism in America, Susan Carter, Historical Librarian of the Plainfield Public Library, has come up with the timely addition of three books on the subject:

- Holliday, Rev. F. C. Indiana Methodism: being an account of the introduction, progress, and present position of Methodism in the state; and also a history of the literary institutions under the care of the church, with sketches of the principal Methodist educators in the state. (1873)
- Hibben, Rev. W. W. Rev. James Havens, one of the heroes of Indiana Methodism. (1872)

They have also purchased REMINISCENCES OF EARLY METHODISM IN INDIANA by the Rev. John C. Smith (1809-1883) and published in 1879. The following excerpts describe a camp-meeting which was held in Hendricks County:

REMINISCENCES OF EARLY METHODISM IN INDIANA

A Camp Meeting

Memory is by far the most pleasing if not the most important faculty of the mind. But for its functions all the past of our lives would be a desert waste as though it had never been. A dark, oblivious wave would settle over all past history and leave to us nothing but the consciousness of the present fleeting moment and the uncertain anticipations of the future. But for memory all the sweet and innocent pastimes of childhood would be forgotten, and life would be only a present now of vanity and vexation of spirit.

I have no doubt that the pleasures of memory far excel its sorrows, and are incomparably greater and purer than the conscious joys of the fleeting moment that now is, and of the imperfect pleasures of anticipation. It is a fact of which we all are conscious, that the memory of those events in our past life which gave us pain and sorrow then, is much less vivid now than the memory of those events which

gave us joy at their occurrence. Memory writes our sorrows in the sand, but engraves our joys on imperishable tablets of gold. It is, therefore, not only a duty but a pleasure to record the memories of the past. In this paper we shall present you with some remembrances of a fragmentary character, in which not only a few prominent actors will appear, but groups will take their place upon the stage.

The events which we here record seem to us now like green oases in the desert wastes of the past, and we seem to be living over again those thrilling scenes. In the autumn of 1844 I traveled the Crawfordsville District, then in the bounds of the North Indiana Conference, and attended a camp-meeting held for the Danville Circuit in the bounds of said district. The encampment was near the old Wesley Chapel, five or six miles due east of Danville. For awhile the ministers and others having charge of the matter hesitated as to the suitability of the location, as it was not in the midst of a Methodist community, and some other objections existing. But at length the place was fixed on, and all the buildings and fixtures necessary were put in order.

When the day for commencement arrived it was found most agreeable, calm, beautiful and fair. The tents were all full, and an eager congregation was present at the very beginning, and God signified his presence and acceptance of the place and proffered services by many infallible signs. Every coming together of the people witnessed a rapid increase in numbers and in the spirit of solemn devotion. The preaching was impressive and full of divine unction.

Friday, Saturday and Sabbath passed with the usual exercises, but with more than ordinary success. Many were cut to the heart; many were converted, and all were renewed in the spirit of their minds. On Sabbath the whole encampment was a mercy-seat, and the Divine Shekinah rested over it in silent awe. The spirit of joy and weeping seemed almost universal.

There was a gentleman by the name of W___ residing in the neighborhood, whose wife was dead, but he had two grown-up daughters living with him of more than ordinary accomplishments and intelligence. The father was not religious, and had even strong infidel proclivities. The daughters were gay and fond of worldly pleasure, living without hope and destitute even of religious desire. They were all much devoted to each other; the father doted on his daughters, and they in turn revered their father. They all attended the camp-meeting, more as a matter of curiosity and social pleasure than anything else. It was observed that they were on the ground on Sabbath morning earlier than usual, and continued all day; and, moreover, that they manifested more than usual interest in the proceedings. The gay smile, and even the curled lip of fun and derision, were seen to give way to solemn thought and religious awe. Indeed, that was a Sabbath long to be remembered by them and by all who were present. The mighty power of God rested over the place, and all who came within those sacred precincts felt that the ground on which they stood was holy.

The altar that day was constantly crowded with penitents and with joyful saints, and many were that day added to the Lord. After the sermon at night the whole encampment seemed to be an altar of prayer. I was standing near the preachers' tent, surveying in silence the solemn scene, when a lady approached me and said: "Please go and speak to that young lady who sits there bitterly weeping," at the same time pointing to the root of a tree close by. I said, "What young lady is that?" She replied, "That is Miss E. W___, youngest daughter of our neighbor, Mr. W___, who resides in this vicinity." So we went directly to her, "Will you tell us the cause of your distress?"

"Oh!" said she, "I feel myself to-night as I never felt before--a sinner condemned to die, and utterly without preparation to meet God."

We asked her if she desired to go to the altar of prayer.

"Oh, yes," she said, "but I fear the opposition of my elder sister and father, who I know to be hostile to these things, and I must go first and speak to them." Whereupon she tremblingly arose and we all went in search of the elder sister, whom, to our great joy, we found not far distant, weeping also.

They clasped each other in their arms and wept together. Then breaking silence, the younger said: "Dear sister, I desire to go to that altar of prayer and seek our long-neglected Savior. Have you any objections? I have come to ask you to accompany me. I dare not put off this matter any longer."

To this the elder sister replied: "Objections! I have none. I have desired to do the same thing, but feared our father's opposition and your own. Let us go immediately and seek our father, and entreat him to go with us to the altar of prayer, and in any event to grant us his approbation." So, hand in hand, they started in search of the father. Soon we found him weeping bitterly. The introduction was soon made, and the elder sister said, "Dear father, we have come to ask your permission to go to the altar of prayer, and to implore you to go with us. We feared your opposition, and could not take the solemn step without first seeing you."

"Opposition!" said he, with increased weeping, "I have none. I have this night desired to do this very thing, but I feared it might offend you both, and you know how I have desired to please you in all things. I am ready, let us go."

So, hand in hand, they conferred no longer with flesh and blood, but approached the mercy-seat in humble penitence, and that very night they all found peace in believing on the Lord Jesus Christ, and gave themselves to the church which they had so long contemned.

And now, in a word, let us sum up the fruits of this most remarkable camp-meeting.

It closed on Tuesday in the afternoon, after a session of only four days, and yet the conversions exceeded one hundred, and fully that number were added to the church. Four days were about the usual length of camp-meetings in those days. Our fathers went into the tented grove to worship God, and to do a certain work. They did it, and then returned home. No lost time in empty formalities; no misspent time in useless ceremonies; no empty harangues about politics or worldly economy. They expected Jesus, according to his promise, to come quickly, and he came. They expected a blessing; they got it, and were satisfied. At two o'clock p.m. the horn was sounded for the last time, a signal for departure. Hundreds quickly assembled at the stand, where a short exhortation was given, and a fervent prayer was offered up for a final blessing on that memorable spot. Then the meeting closed, amidst tears, and benedictions, and hearty hand-shakings, and fond embraces, in which feeble nerves and tender bones were in some danger; but none were hurt, and all felt that it was good for them to have been there.

IN MEMORIUM

Gerald and Helen Jones were charter members of the HCHS and they could always be counted on to add sparkle and zest to our meetings...she with her music and he with his stories. His life has been lonely since she left him, and he went to join her recently. We extend our sympathy to their family. We have missed them greatly. Betty Jo Bartley, Historical Librarian of the Danville Public Library, and one of the most faithful members and a dedicated contributor to THE BULLETIN, lost her father, Mr. Marion Bartley. We extend our love and heartfelt sympathy to her and her mother.

