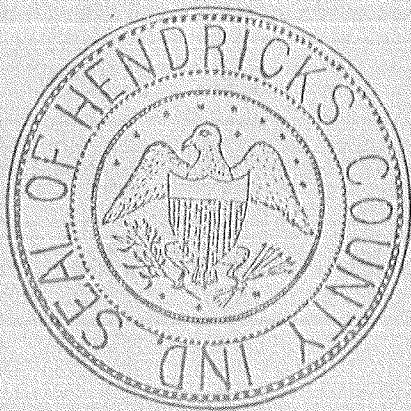


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# HENDRICKS COUNTY

## HISTORY BULLETIN



VOLUME

XX

NUMBER III

AUGUST 1989  
PUBLISHED BY

THE HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DANVILLE, INDIANA

HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

ORGANIZED 1967

OFFICERS 1989

PRESIDENT

Judge Jeffrey V. Boles  
407 E. Mill St.  
Danville, IN 46122  
Tel. 745-6100

VICE PRESIDENT

Mrs. Judy Pingel  
R. R. 1, Box 153  
Pittsboro, IN 46167  
Tel. 745-4127

SECRETARY

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

TREASURER

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

HISTORIAN

Marie Hopkins  
1634 Forest Drive  
Plainfield, IN 46168  
Tel. 839-3146

PUBLICITY

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

GENEALOGISTS

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

Mrs. H. Harold Templin  
20 Clinton Court  
Danville, IN 46122  
Tel. 745-5322

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

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101 S. Indiana  
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Attention: Lori Wynn  
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1120 Stafford Rd.  
Plainfield, IN 46168  
Attn: Susan Miller Carter  
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ANNUAL DUES \$3.00 PAYABLE IN NOVEMBER

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

Get your facts first, then you can distort them  
as much as you please.

Mark Twain

President's Summer Message

I hope this message finds you all in good health and enjoying our beautiful summer weather.

By now I'm sure everybody in the County knows that we have a new Flag for our County. I have an interesting trivia question that was brought to my attention by Margaret Baker. Governor William Hendricks, on December 20, 1823, approved an act for the formation of the County of Hendricks. In Section Two of the act, it was provided that Hendricks County shall have all the rights and privileges of a County beginning on the 1st day of April, 1824. I don't think April Fool's Day had the same significance back in 1824. Therefore, our new Flag has "Founded 1824" at the bottom. There is a picture of the Flag with this edition of the Bulletin.

We owe a great debt of gratitude to the people at the Pittsboro Christian Church for the fine meeting we had with Gary Varvel and Wendell Trogon. They certainly are quality journalists and represent their craft well.

Our Vice President, Judy Pingle, represented us well at the Hendricks County Commissioners' Meeting at the Flag Award Presentation Ceremony. We should also thank Betty Weesner from the The Republican for printing the finalists of the Flag Contest in her newspaper. If there is a finalist that needs a copy of the newspaper, please call me at work and I will send you one.

Many of you may have seen the surveyors from the Historic Sites and Structures Inventory in our County. We want to keep up to date with that project.

Our next meeting will feature Lynn Hopper, Editor of the Hendricks County Flyer. Many of us know her as an expert in antiques. She will present "Show-And-Tell". Bring your antiques to be identified by Lynn Hopper at 2:00 p.m., August 6, 1989, at the Plainfield Public Library. This will be an exciting meeting.

As my term of President winds down, I want to thank all the members of the Historical Society who have been so kind to me and my family throughout these two years. I have certainly enjoyed being your President. Looking forward to seeing you in August.

J. V. Boles, President

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MAY MEETING

The Hendricks County Historical Society met on Sunday May 7, 1989 at the Pittsboro Christian Church. Sixty-five people signed the register.

The meeting was opened by our vice president Judy Pingel. She welcomed the guests and told something of the Society and the Museum, the flag project, and the landmark foundation.

The mixed sextet from the Pittsboro Christian Church sang several numbers. Their beautiful singing was well received.

The secretary's report was read and approved.

The treasurer's report was read and accepted.

Dorothy Kelley gave the museum report. She told of visitors to the museum, and how the museum's articles are loaned for community events. The vice president requested that anyone who had any extra room to house the gentleman working on the landmarks project to let it be known.

The flag entries were on display. The Historical Society members voted and the entries receiving the most votes will be turned over to the Hendricks County Commissioners for their final selection of the winner.

President Judge Jeffrey Boles introduced Wendell Trogdon and Gary Varvel, writer and chief artist for the Indianapolis News. Both told something of their families early in the state's history. Mr. Varvel illustrated as fast as Mr. Trogdon Talked. He told of life when he was a youngster, mentioning old-time news commentators, radio programs, and battery radics. He told of the first Farmall-20 farm tractor, and farming with horses. Exerpts from his books were entertaining.

The meeting adjourned and we all partook of the goodies the Middle Township ladies provided.

Judge Jeffrey Boles, Pres.

Jewell Bell, Sec'y.

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AUGUST MEETING

The next HCHS meeting will be held at 2:00 pm on Sunday, August 6, 1989 at the Plainfield Public Library. Guest speaker Lynn Hopper, of the Hendricks County Flyer, will present a program on antiques. Members are asked to bring any antiques for Lynn to identify and evaluate. It's certain to be an informative meeting, so make plans to attend.

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MUSINGS FROM THE MUSEUM

During the month of May, students from Westlake Schools in Marion County, Clayton Schools and Bonnie Mitchell's grade 3 Space Cadets of Danville South Elementary School visited the museum. The Space Cadets brought their Space Capsule. They contributed space related items and will reopen the capsule when they are in the 8th grade, and again when they are about to graduate from high school.

We received a picture taken at the dedication of the bridge southwest of Danville on S.R. 39. That bridge was replaced just a few years ago. There was a picture of the members of the Danville Masonic Lodge (1950). Most of the members shown there are now deceased. More of the articles we received included a comforter contributed by Autumn Care of Brownsburg. It contains names of

patients and what they were known for in their active lives. There is a collection of articles, some of which were memorabilia from the Civil War. We recently received an early desk telephone that was used before the dial system went into effect. Someone brought in an 1877 grey brick and a story about bricks. There is a nice toy assortment that shows what youngsters used to play with. We received a very nice painting.

We can always depend on the Hendricks County Garden Club to provide a pretty flower bed. This year it is planted with marigolds and red and gold scabiosa. Thanks, ladies, you always give us something pretty to look at!

Jewell

## THE WASH ROOM

This time we'll take another look at the basement. There's a little nook over here by the stairs that contains laundry equipment. Over here on shelves is an assortment of items. One is a pitcher and bowl set of white enamel trimmed with black enamel. It served the purpose in its day. Other items on the shelf include our collection of irons. Here's an old flat iron that like all of irons then--it didn't have a heat resistant handle. Everything had to be ironed too! Those irons make pretty good door stops today. This iron is a charcoal iron. That would save many steps. Here is a gasoline iron that was a big help too. All those were nice where electricity was not available. That eliminated lots of steps between the stove and ironing board. Then along came the electric iron, a "must have" as soon as electricity became available. There wasn't any more worry about spilled coals that would start a fire, nothing to run a chance of exploding. A fuse could blow, but who thought of that until it happened. Time out while someone located some fuses. There is quite an assortment of electric irons.

The washer is a rocker-type. The tub is corrugated and the rocker had ridges that imitate using a wash board. This one has a hand operated wringer. Using that kind of machine helped use up calories.

Here is a copper wash boiler. It was about the only way to have hot water for washing. Here's a small wash board. Just to look at one of those spelled DRUDGERY in capital letters. Behind the washer is a stand for tubs. There is an ironing board back under the stairs. It is one that has to be propped up with a cabinet or whatever is handy that will hold it. The ironing board right by the stairs is a little smaller and has folding legs. It is all set up and ready to use. It is a modern wash room for its time many years ago. Our great-grandmothers would say; "For land's sake!" if they could see our equipment today.

There is a poster right over the ironing board that tells beginners how to wash. You want to take time to read it.

### "Receet For Washin' Close"

Build fire in back yard to "het" kittle of rain water.

Set tubs so smoke won't blow in eyes if wind is "peart".

Shave one "hole" cake of "lie sope" in "bilin" water.

Sort things---make 3 piles---1 pile white, 1 pile "cullard", and 1 "werk" britches and rags.

"Stur" flour in cold water to smooth, then thin with "bilin" water.

Rub dirty spots on board, scrub hard then "bile"---"rench", "blew" and starch.

Turn tubs upside down.

Take white things out of kittle with stick handel then "rench", "cullare"  
don't "bile" just "rench" and starch.  
Go put on a "cleen" dress, smooth hair with side combs, brew cup "tee" set  
and read a spell and Count "Blessins"  
Advice---Spred tea towels on grass, rags on fence---"Pore renoch" water on  
flower beds.  
Scrub porch with hot "sopy" water.

Note---the words in "quotes" are spelled just as they are in the original piece.  
Now we know how to wash!

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#### BACK ISSUES OF BULLETIN AVAILABLE

Need an extra copy of the HCHB to give to a friend? Perhaps you're missing  
a few issues from your personal collection. There are back issues of the BULLETIN  
available at \$2.00 per copy at the Hendricks County Historical Museum gift shop or  
contact Jewell Bell at 745-4055.

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#### CONGRATULATIONS PLAINFIELD!

Plans are underway in Plainfield to organize a celebration for the town's  
sesquicentennial. As this issue of the BULLETIN goes to press, plans have been  
made to center the event around Quaker Days held on Saturday, September 9, 1989  
at the Friends meeting grounds in Plainfield. The celebration will move that  
evening to the high school grounds where there will be fireworks, cake and  
ice cream. The public is invited to attend and society members should be  
certain to mark their calendar. Watch the county newspapers for further details  
on the upcoming events.

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#### IN MEMORIAM

It is with sadness we note the passing of society members Leona Blair,  
Mildred Hosier, and Howard Lewis. We extend our sympathies to their family.

The most recent death of Floy Spencer takes another long-time member of the  
HCHS. Floy was not only an active member for many years, but she was the owner of  
a beautiful Hal Wilson coverlet made in 1848. As most of us know, Hal Wilson was  
Hendricks County's most famous weaver of coverlets. Mrs. Spencer allowed us to  
use her coverlet as the beautiful design on the back of the front and back cover  
of our HISTORY OF HENDRICKS COUNTY, 1914-1976, as well as on the fly leaf.  
(Incidentally, a few copies of the valuable book are still available and they are  
getting more valuable with each passing year.)

We all will remember Floy for her dedication to our Society, and we send our  
sympathies, too, to her family.

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LATE ITEM

Frances Fisher Falls

Another of our dearest members, Frances Fisher, broke her hip in a fall at her home in Pittsboro and is hospitalized at Urbana, IL, where her daughter lives.

Frances and Roy Fisher were two of the main forces in the formation of the HCCHS in 1967, and Frances has contributed many interesting articles to THE BULLETIN through the years.

We are happy to report that Frances is making progress and she would be glad to hear from her many friends. She will receive cards and letters at 1106 McHenry, Urbana, IL 61801.

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HISTORIC SITES AND STRUCTURES INVENTORY

Due to the sponsorship of the HCCHS and Mid State Bank, the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana has been conducting a survey of historically and architecturally significant structures within Hendricks County. The Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory attempts to document and photograph all structures in the county that were developed before 1940 and still retain historical or architectural integrity. Structures may include houses, outbuildings, cemeteries, any pre-1940 sites that have not been altered significantly.

Field work in the county, conducted by Ball State graduate Jeff Huntington and Valparaiso law student Donna McCoy, began in May. The Foundation surveyors traveled every road in the county locating pre-1940 structures for the inventory, photographing the site, talking with the owners where possible, and completing the necessary documentation.

Ann Davis of the Historic Landmarks Foundation indicated that surveying of individual townships will be completed by the end of July. The Foundation will determine historical districts in such towns as Danville, Plainfield, and North Salem, and field work will be completed by late August.

The material will be edited and prepared for publication in softbound book form. Society members will be asked to assist in proofreading the material and completing any necessary research. The finished publication, which will include photographs of outstanding sites within Hendricks County, should be available for sale by December.

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WELCOME TO THE HCCHS

Our ever-efficient secretary, Jewell Bell, reports that we have received several new members to the society this year. A sincere welcome to our new members. Your interest and support are greatly appreciated. We hope to see lots of new faces at the August meeting in Plainfield.

If any other members have failed to renew, just a reminder that those \$3.00

a year dues entitle you to the BULLETIN and enable the HCHS to continue its work. Contact Jewell Bell or any society officer at the next meeting to pay your dues.

Also, the society would like to extend congratulations to member Lori Wynn Vittetow upon her recent marriage. Best wishes, Lori!

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#### INDIANA HISTORY ON TAPE

The Plainfield Public Library now has a series of 44 Indiana history radio programs, "The Nineteenth State," available for circulation on 22 audio cassette tapes.

The gift of the Indiana Historical Society, which co-produced the programs in conjunction with Media Indiana, Inc., the tapes are a part of the Indiana Collection at the Plainfield Library. The IHS made the tapes available, free of charge, to the largest library in each of Indiana's counties.

Glimpses of Indiana's past and present are provided by the statewide radio series which touches on the people, events and values that have shaped Hoosiers' lives.

Hoosier Chris Schenkel narrates the programs which are enlivened by both music and sound effects.

The tapes may be borrowed with a valid Plainfield Public Library card or with a reciprocal borrower's card issued by Plainfield Library to a cardholder from another library in the county.

Topics available include the following:

- IC Tape #1 The Birth of the 19th State. The processes and powers which led to Indiana's statehood in 1816 are described in this program.
- IC Tape #1 Indiana's Boys of Susser. A review of some of the Hoosier state's classic baseball talent of the major leagues.
- IC Tape #2 Lost Bills. Legislative history notes from our Statehouse as to the sometimes mysterious disappearances of proposed and passed bills.
- IC Tape #2 The Clown Prince of Vincennes. The beginnings and later successes of the entertainment career of Red Skelton.
- IC Tape #3 Indiana's Canals. A Hoosier History Revisited dramatization segment uses file material, spoken in the words of a canal boat traveler, to describe the unpleasant realities of slow canal passenger service.
- IC Tape #3 Thanksgiving Day, 1886. A dramatization of a Thanksgiving Day celebration in a Hoosier household one hundred years ago.
- IC Tape #4 The Battle of Tippecanoe. Hoosier History Revisited segments tell of the strategies, the battles, and the personalities of the conflict.



- IC Tape #4 Hoosiers at Pearl Harbor. A somber recollection of the experiences of Hoosier survivors of the Japanese attack on the Hawaiian Islands on December 7, 1941.
- IC Tape #5 The New Madrid Earthquake. A regional episode, with dramatizations of the great shakes of 1811 and 1812.
- IC Tape #5 The 1937 Flood. Descriptions of the Ohio River flood.
- IC Tape #6 Indiana's State Seal. The story of the adoption of Indiana's official seal in 1963.
- IC Tape #6 Steamboating on the Ohio. Historical details of the vessels and personalities which plied the Ohio River in grand style during the last century.
- IC Tape #7 Indiana, the Colony. Indiana's "colonial" days are described in this program detailing the Northwest Ordinance.
- IC Tape #7 Indiana Constitution of 1851. The politics and provisions of the Hoosier state's second constitution.
- IC Tape #8 Lyles Station, Indiana. The history of a remarkable black settlement in southern Indiana known for its successful citizens.
- IC Tape #8 Indiana Steel. The history of the Calumet Region's industrial giants and their social side-effects - good and bad.
- IC Tape #9 Indiana and the U. S. Constitution. The Ex Parte Milligan case and the experiences of a 26-year-old Indiana attorney entrusted with writing the 25th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution illustrate a few ways in which the Hoosier state has shaped the Federal document.
- IC Tape #9 The Governors of Brookville. Personal descriptions of four Indiana governors from this small southeastern Indiana community.
- IC Tape #10 Kay Wright Sewall. A scholar, a teacher, a women's right activist.
- IC Tape #10 Sherman Minton. A review of the life of the former U.S. Senator from Indiana who was the first Hoosier appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court.
- IC Tape #11 The Draining of the Prairie. The "instant" creation of hundreds of thousands of acres of prime northwest Indiana farmland through the draining of the Kankakee River region in the late nineteenth century.
- IC Tape #11 Terror on Palm Sunday, 1965. The story of tornado-puzzled Russiaville, Ind. as told by its residents.
- IC Tape #12 Indiana's Guerillas of the Philippines. A gripping episode detailing four horrific years in the life of Indiana's Clay Conner.
- IC Tape #12 Fanny Wright. A woman described by Walt Whitman as a brilliant woman of beauty and estate...doing good.
- IC Tape #13 Tony Hulman, Part I. The life of popular Indiana businessman and gentleman, Anton Hulman, Jr. of Terre Haute.

- IC Tape #13 Tony Hulman, Part II. A continuation of Hulman's career at the helm of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.
- IC Tape #14 Indiana Limestone. The history of Indiana's limestone industry is reviewed via on-location interviews with quarry owners and Indiana's Geologist Emeritus from Indiana University.
- IC Tape #14 The Gas Boom. The abundant gift of trillions of cubic feet of natural gas beneath the surface of Indiana was tragically squandered during the late nineteenth century via ignorance.
- IC Tape #15 Hoosier Fourth. The episode recalls details of Fourth of July celebrations in various towns across the state dating back some 140 years ago.
- IC Tape #15 Indiana's Pan American Heritage. Many angles of Indiana's connections to the Pan American world (of which it is a part) are examined in this episode taped at Pan American Plaza, Indianapolis, during the tenth Pan American Games held in our capital city.
- IC Tape #16 Major Taylor. A primer on the life of Indiana's great bicycle racer of the 1890s.
- IC Tape #16 Hoosier Celebration '88. The statewide, bi-partisan call for Hoosiers to examine their roots and invite all to come "back home again to Indiana," is described in this show.
- IC Tape #17 Middletown U.S.A. Theatre. Dr. Edward Strother, professor emeritus of theatre at Ball State University, has painstakingly researched the development of theater in Muncie, Middletown, U.S.A., and presents some of his findings.
- IC Tape #17 Studebakers. The entire episode is a dramatization of the building of the Studebaker empire as told by John Mohler Studebaker, the last of the brothers, who retired in 1915, at age 81.
- IC Tape #18 Music of the Old Northwest, Part I. Substitute host Tom Cochrun, sitting in for Chris Schenkel, along with folksong researcher Charlotte Daniels recall some of the folktunes of late 18th century America and their respective histories.
- IC Tape #18 Music of the Old Northwest, Part II. More tunes and tales from the late 18th century.
- IC Tape #19 George Rogers Clark. The military accomplishments of Northwest Territory defender George Rogers Clark are highlighted.
- IC Tape #19 Indiana Radio On The Air. Our series looks at the history of its own medium in Indiana from 1920 to 1950.
- IC Tape #20 Herb Shriner, Part I. The first installment of a two-part series on the life and career of the humorist who was born in Toledo, Ohio, "...but moved to Indiana as soon as I found out about it."
- IC Tape #20 Herb Shriner, Part II. The second of two episodes.

- IC Tape #21 A News Conference With Benjamin Harrison, Part I. Episode takes place in the year 1897 a "news conference," complete with historians and reporters asking questions about the life and career of our 23rd President.
- IC Tape #21 A News Conference With Benjamin Harrison, Part II. The conclusion of this popular two-part news conference.
- IC Tape #22 Pioneer Holiday Music. Folk tunes sung by our Old Northwest pioneers at Christmastime were featured in this episode.
- IC Tape #22 Pioneer Holiday Traditions. This episode takes listeners to Fort Wayne to learn about Indiana's Hanukkah traditions as celebrated in the 1820s.

For more information on the tapes, please call the Local History/Indiana section of the library at 839-6602. Library hours are 10-8:30 Monday through Thursday and 9-5 Friday and Saturday. The library is located at 1120 Stafford Road, at the corner of Stafford and Simmons Street. Borrower's cards are available free of charge to Guilford Township residents.

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Special thanks to Susan Carter, Plainfield Public Library, for submitting the following article from the Guilford Twp Historical Collection. Long-time county residents are sure to find familiar names amidst these reminiscences.

Notes of the Green-Carter-Hadley Family of Plainfield, Indiana

by Otis Webster Green, 1950

Hiram Andrew Lindsay Green, my Father, was the youngest child of Hiram and Mary Lowder Green (sometimes spelled Greene). His brothers were John, Linley, and Simpson, and his sisters were Minerva and Louisa.

His Mother died when he was 8 years old, and his brother John (20 years older) and his wife, took him into their home for awhile. Then Aunt Rachel Rushton, his mother's sister, a Quaker, brought him to her home, where he remained until her death. Aunt Edith Day, another sister, took him and Aunt Rachel's boys, making a family of 9 boys and 1 girl, to bring up as her own. She was very good to all of them.

Uncle John Day, her husband, had some fine cattle, of which he was proud. Once the boys left the barn door open, some of the cattle got in and ate so much rich food that they foundered and several died. The boys were much frightened, but when the good old Quaker saw how frightened they were all he said was, "Boys, thee must be more careful in future if ever thou art to prosper." It made a great impression on my Father, who often told the tale. He was very fond of the Quakers and respected them, although he never became one of the Sect.

"Uncle" Henry Hensley, and "Aunt" Mary Hensley, (courtesy titles only) and their invalid daughter, lived in a large house built to accommodate the visiting Quakers who came to attend the Yearly Meeting of Friends, at the Friends Church, Plainfield, Indiana. The Western Yearly Meeting drew Quakers from many lands; we had in our home when I was a boy, two women who were delegates from England

and Ireland. Once one came from York, also. The Hensleys were fine old people, generous and good, but when he died, their money gave out as he had lent and given it too generously, perhaps. The two women of the family were reduced to poverty. They had a small garden and a little fruit in their yard, and nothing else. I remember Mother sending me when I was a little boy, to visit them many times, particularly on Sundays, and I always took a basket in which she put as much food as I could carry and they could decently accept; fried chicken, cake, pie, bacon, etc. Once I recall taking 6 pieces of chicken, and I came home and cried with the shock of my first meeting with poverty, because she said to me, "Tell thy Mother that Aunt Mary said this food would keep them for several days."

My cousin, Eber Green, talked to me and wrote to me about the family several times. His name was a corruption of the French Hebert. His research had told him that the family came from North Carolina, and there were many records once at Guilford Courthouse, but that had burned, so he had several gaps in his researches, that could not be bridged, although he had made a family tree that he thought was correct. The family descended from General Nathaniel Greene's family. This was a family tradition of long standing. He sent me a bookplate from London, which was made for Everard Green, May 1906, this was sent to him by an English cousin. It had been made and attested to by the Royal College of Heraldry. It shows three stags, with antlers, a device that appears on various types of heraldry for both Greens and Greenes.

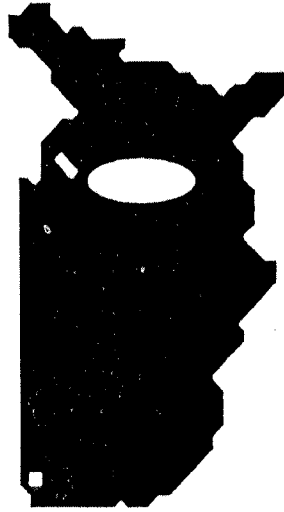
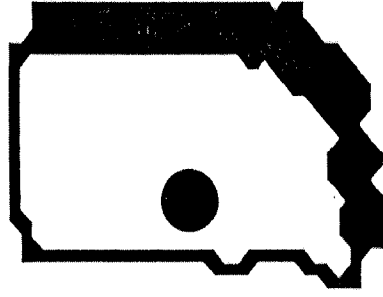
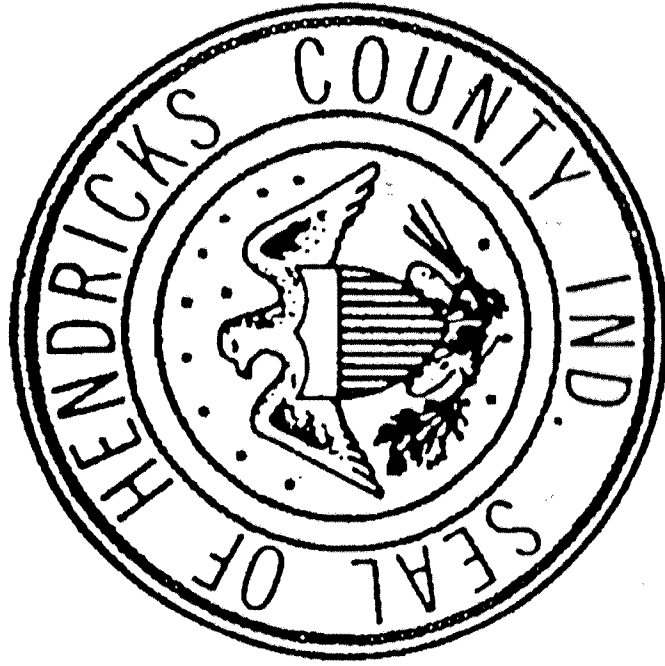
I was born in Plainfield, Indiana, Oct. 28, 1868. (Note: he died in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 4, 1951.) My father, and several of his cousins, although they were all very young at the time, went to the Civil War as soldiers for the Northern side. They insisted upon staying together as much as possible. In those days, with the heavy toll of battle on the fields, many a young soldier rose from the ranks to high officers' titles. Three of these boys, including my Father, refused Captaincies (a gesture they were later to regret when it came to claiming pensions to which they were entitled) because they wanted to stay together. As my Father often said, "It was bad enough to be there, and see all the dying around one, without losing touch with the only living friends and cousins one had." He was wounded in the leg and left on the battlefield for dead. He was picked up by Confederate soldiers and taken to Libbey Prison, where his leg was treated as best they could under their straightened circumstances, when there were few doctors and fewer nurses, and too many dead and dying of both sides to care for. He carried a bullet in his hip all his life, for it was never removed by surgery. He said the "Johnny Rebs" game them as much as they could, as much as they had for themselves. He was never bitter about the war, and never would talk much about it, but he instantly silenced any angry talk about the Southerners as mean or vindictive. He always said, "They did what they thought was right, and so did we; it's over now." Then he would leave the room. He would never discuss the war nor the hardships nor the misery nor the starvation. But he could never eat beans again, as that was the staple food during his prison days.

When I was 11, I was sent to the Friends Academy at Plainfield; I was too young to go but the headmaster was a friend of my Father, and he asked me to become a student, so I did. I was graduated at 16. I went to Butler College, Indianapolis, Indiana, where I graduated in 1880. I was a member there of Phi Delta Theta Fraternity, where I roomed for a time with Benjamin Marshall Davis, of North Salem, Indiana who later became my brother-in-law. I married Gertrude Johnson of Irvington a suburb of Indianapolis, on Oct. 16, 1895. We had two daughters, Marian and Emily. My sister-in-law, Emma Johnson, married Marshall Davis in Irvington, August 1, 1912. Both marriages took place at the home of the brides' Father, Albert Johnson, a former banker in Clayton, Indiana.

To be continued

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# HENDRICKS COUNTY, INDIANA



**FOUNDED 1824**

Flag entry submitted by:

Dennis M. Petri

Petri Printing Company

16 West Main Street

Danville, Indiana 46122

