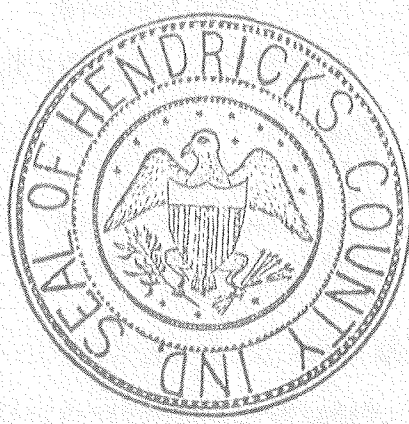


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HENDRICKS COUNTY

HISTORY BULLETIN



VOLUME XXI NUMBER III

AUGUST 1990
PUBLISHED BY

THE HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
DANVILLE, INDIANA

HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

ORGANIZED 1967

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"History is the record of an encounter between character
and circumstance."

- - Donald Creighton

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Time really flies when you are (A) having fun and (B) trying to do a thousand things at once. Both these conditions have existed for those of us that are involved in the museum these days. The expansion/renovation is quite an undertaking and each job started seems to lead to a geometric progression of other things to do. My son (who probably regrets being home from college by this time) has been drafted for some of the heavier moving chores. He has discovered the two "Murphy's Laws of Rearrangement": (1) if it is in the basement, it should be in the attic and (2) the harder it is to move the more likely these crazy ladies are going to want it moved.

I am looking forward to the August meeting, when Bill Compton, a history teacher at Tri West High School will talk about the Civil War and Indiana's role in it. Bill is very knowledgeable and is a good speaker so I am sure we all will enjoy the program. The Pittsboro Christian Church is air conditioned so we should be comfortable in spite of the heat wave. If any of you have any Civil War items to bring in we will have display tables set up and we will discuss some of the things shown.

Looking forward to seeing all of you,

Judy

AUGUST MEETING

The Hendricks County Historical Society will meet on Sunday, August 5, 1990, at the Pittsboro Christian Church. The church is located at 216 N. Maple Street. The meeting will begin promptly at 2:00 pm and refreshments will follow the program. Mr. Bill Compton, a history teacher with Tri West High School, will discuss Indiana's role in the Civil War. With an informative speaker, an interesting topic, air conditioning, and refreshments, we can guarantee an entertaining afternoon.

MUSEUM METAMORPHOSIS

If you haven't been to the museum for a while, you're in for a pleasant surprise. Since the County Commissioners granted use of the south annex, the museum has gained some "breathing room". The overcrowded conditions have been relieved by setting up five new exhibit areas in this new section.

The Central Normal/Canterbury College room has already been visited by the alumni during their recent reunion. The medical history room is nearly complete. The sewing arts room is also set up, with only a few more finishing touches to go. Work in the Relander Collection/Indian History room is the next item on the agenda. The remaining area will be used as a gallery for changing exhibits. There is also office space for the Historical Society and for the Genealogy Society.

Arrangements are being made with the Field Services Division of the Indiana Historical Society to bring the museum staff up to date on the latest techniques in preservation and conservation of local history collections.

Through the efforts of the museum workers and curator Dorothy Kelley, our museum has accumulated one of the finest local history collections in the state. We hope that the expansion and the conservation work we are about to begin will make ours truly a museum on the move.

CENTRAL NORMAL REUNION

Like the mythical village of Brigadoon, the campus of Central Normal College came back to life on June 23 for the Central Normal College/Canterbury College Alumni Reunion. Over 200 former students and faculty gathered at the site of the college to reminisce and to renew acquaintances.

Representatives of the Historical Society and the Museum were present at the Reunion. At the banquet, vice president Betty Bartley gave a talk on the influence of the early faculty, and president Judy Pingel informed the alumni of the expansion of the museum and the new Central Normal/Canterbury room. Alumni were invited to attend an open house at the museum immediately following the reunion.

The highlight of the afternoon was the presentation of a portrait of Prof. Charles Allen Hargrave by his grandson, Homer "Buzz" Hargrave, Jr. Danville Junior High School principal Jim Disney accepted the portrait, which will be displayed in Hargrave Hall.

In conjunction with the reunion, the museum has issued a print featuring eight scenes of the campus. The 11" x 17" print is suitable for framing and available in the museum gift shop for \$3.00. The gift shop has also added other CNC items such as tee shirts, paperweights, and placques.

Excuses, Excuses

Society members are likely to notice the absence of the summary from the May meeting in this issue of the BULLETIN. Due to HCHS Secretary Jewell Bell's bout of ill health, the report was not available when this issue was compiled. If you are curious about the May meeting, it was most enjoyable and the refreshments were quite tasty. Come to the August meeting in Pittsboro so you won't have to wonder about such things! If any member has a question concerning the contents of the May Secretary's report, please contact one of the officers.

This editor certainly hopes Jewell is back on her feet soon. She is invaluable in the process of developing the BULLETIN - contributing the Secretary's and Museum reports along with miscellaneous stories of interest to BULLETIN readers, keeping membership records current, preparing the BULLETIN for mailing, and reminding the editor of her duties! Hurry back, Jewell!

Special thanks to the society officers who have assisted in the production of this issue, especially Betty Bartley who provided the museum update.

Historical Society Secretary Jewell Bell is recuperating from a recent illness. It is hoped that she will be at home by the time this Bulletin is mailed. Members wishing to send cards may address them to her at 212 E. 200 N., Danville, IN 46122.

Get well soon, Jewell!

Area residents are unlikely to have forgotten the severe summer storms and tornadoes that swept through our county on June 2nd causing considerable damage. The home of society members Frank and Mary Bunn of North Salem was destroyed by a tornado at that time. We extend our sympathy to them on the loss of their possessions.

There is a lot happening at the museum these days, so if it has been a while since your last visit, make it a point to stop. The museum always needs docents, especially since the display areas have expanded. So if you are interested in volunteering, contact curator Dorothy Kelley, or any of the society officers.

HCHC ESSAY CONTEST

The HCHS sponsored an essay contest on any aspect of Hendricks County history for area elementary school children this spring. The submitted essays were excellent and it was a tough decision picking the winners. Thank you to all the participants and congratulations to the winners! The winning essayists were presented prizes at the May meeting and their entries are reprinted below. Rebecca Eileen Seger's entry on the Lizton cholera epidemic was the county-wide winner. The contest will be an annual event sponsored by the society for each school year.

CHOLERA!

By Rebecca Eileen Seger
North Salem Elementary - Sixth Grade

August 23, 1873

Dear Diary,

Hello! I'd like to introduce myself to you, Diary. I'm a young tailor in New Elizabeth Town. I met a family of three on August 20th. Their names were William and Fannie Davis, they have a son too. Fannie was 18 and 2 months of age. Their son is young, but I have forgotten his name. Fannie died yesterday of cholera and the funeral was today. Her son has cholera too. I'm going to go check on him. I'll write again tomorrow.

August 24, 1873

Dear Diary,

William and Fannie's son died yesterday. He died 18 hours after he was stricken with cholera. When I checked on him yesterday, he died.

August 29, 1873

Dear Diary,

Dr. Dicks who drove a two-wheeled cart, day and night, attending every cholera case, got stricken with cholera today. He died a couple of hours later. All of the death that has happened, makes me so depressed.

August 31, 1873

Dear Diary,

Yesterday two people died. They were the wife and daughter of Squire Hall. That makes 4 deaths in his family. He was stricken once too but he recovered. I wish I knew how people get cholera. I hope I don't get it. I'm really scared.

September 5, 1873

Dear Diary,

It is evening. Today one of my friends who is between the ages of 50 and 60 died. Her name was Mrs. Burgess. She was a stout lady and she was my friend. I'm very sad.

September 6, 1873

Dear Diary,

Today Noah G. Haggard died. One more cholera victim. He was a elderly carpenter who helped make benches for the New Christian Church.

September 7, 1873

Dear Diary,

The Helmick family of eight all died of cholera except for one boy named Newton. One of the other boys died behind the stove of their house. People did not want to go get the body. They were so frightened of getting the disease, cholera, they lassoed the body, dragged it to the door, and buried the boy in a dry goods box. Lots of people are buried at night and buried in their bed clothes they had died in. Some were wrapped in muslin.

September 10, 1873

Dear Diary,

I have discovered today that I have cholera. It takes a very long time to write letters. I'm very sad and - - - - -

This letter is unfinished because the young tailor died. Like many people, the tailor saw many deaths of friends and family. They didn't have the medicine to help. People died in a few hours after they were stricken with cholera.

Cholera is an infectious intestinal disease. The victim suffers diarrhea and vomiting which results in loss of body fluid. Loss of fluid becomes too extensive, so that even blood fluids and the tissue can be reduced. After a while the dehydration and changes in body chemistry result in shock and the victim might die.

I am very glad I'm not living in a time like that. I think you should be thankful too!

COPPER POT CEMETERY

By Jeremy Oliver
Pittsboro Elementary - Fifth Grade

Stilesville has one of the most famous cemeteries in Hendricks County the Copper Pot Cemetery. The Copper Pot Cemetery has 19 unmarked graves. In the unmarked graves lie the people that died after eating the tainted food from the copper pot kettle. Old tombstones are losing their carving marks, names and dates are not unreadable. Old headstones list age in years, months, and days. There is a tombstone of a tree in the same plots. Three persimmon trees in the cemetery are over 160 years old. Joel Garrison was a soldier in the Revolutionary War and is buried in the Copper Pot Cemetery. Calliard Brown was a World War I veteran and he is buried in the Copper Pot Cemetery. David E. Macy, Vietnam veteran, is buried in the Copper Pot Cemetery. I did the Copper Pot Cemetery because I wanted to know about the Copper Pot Cemetery.

THE CHOLERA EPIDEMIC OF NEW ELIZABETH

By Jenny Toussant
Pittsboro Elementary - Sixth Grade

"Hello, Mary!" Jane yelled joyfully, skipping toward her best friend.

"Good morning, Jane. The weather sure is fine today, isn't it?"

"Oh yes! Just dandy!" replied Jane happily.

"Would you like to walk down to Sarah's house?"

"That would be fun! Let me go ask my ma," Jane yelled back, running for the house.

When Jane returned, the two girls walked off down the long, dirt road. When they arrived at Sarah's house, they found her pa and brother working in the fields.

"Well hello there, young ladies," Sarah's pa called out to them. "Can I help you?"

"Yes. May we please see if Sarah can play?" the girls inquired.

A sad look came into his eyes. "I'm sorry, gals, but she can't play. She's got the dreaded cholera. I'm sorry. If you like, I'll tell her you came by."

"Thank you, sir. We'd appreciate it if you would tell her," Mary said, hardly being able to hold back the tears coming into her eyes.

"We'd better be going now, since it's almost time for supper," Jane managed, struggling just as hard to keep her tears back.

The two girls turned around slowly and walked for a while in silence and tears. Finally, Mary spoke.

"The last person in the world I thought would get that was Sarah - she's hardly ever sick!"

"I just hope she doesn't die," Jane whispered back through her tears.

The 'dreaded disease, cholera' the two girls were talking about was the cause of the epidemic which had spread through what's now Lizton between August 23 and September 6 in 1873.

The next day, Jane walked over to Mary's house.

"Hello, Mrs. Lane," Jane said to Mary's ma when Mrs. Lane had opened the door. "Can Mary play?"

A worried expression came over Mrs. Lane's tired face. "I'm sorry dear, but she has come down with cholera."

"Oh, no! First Sarah, now Mary. Poor Mary," she cried, tears spilling over her cheeks.

"I'm so sorry, dear," Mrs. Lane comforted. "I'd let you see her, but you might get it. I'll tell her you're thinking of her, though."

"Thank you, Mrs. Lane," Jane sobbed quietly. "Good-bye."

That night, Ray, Jane's younger brother started getting sick to his stomach every few hours. Then he started having diarrhea. Jane's ma instructed her to stay away from any place that he went. Ray definitely had cholera, Jane realized with growing horror. Who was going to be next?

That question was answered three days later when Jane's mother started to get the symptoms of cholera. By then, Mary had died and Sarah was getting closer to death every minute. A few other people had already died. No one dared even touch these bodies for fear of contracting the disease.

(Three weeks after this story began)

For Jane it had been the longest three weeks of her life - but the pain was still there, and would be for the rest of her life.

This epidemic, which took place in New Elizabeth (now Lizton), killed 24 people, 22 of which were buried in Vieley Cemetery (now Union Pioneer Cemetery). On some of the gravestones 'cholera' was written. Only four of the grave stones can still be read.

The Story of Lizton

By Elizabeth Devlin

North Salem Elementary - Sixth Grade

"Grandma"

"Yes dear?"

"Tell me a story."

"Okay, once upon a time there lived a girl named Gold...."

"No, no, no! I already know those stories. "Didn't your grandma tell you any stories when you were little?"

"Yes, as a matter of fact she did."

"Oh, goodie! Will you tell me?"

"Ah, you don't wanna know!"

"Ya huh! Please, please, please?!"

"Oh...okay. Well ya see a long time ago a terrible disease called cholera struck the town of New Elizabeth."

"Where's New Elizabeth at, Grandma?"

"Well, it's right where you're sitting. You see, Lizton used to be called New Elizabeth."

"Oh, okay."

"As I was sayin', the disease, cholera, came to New Elizabeth's in August and September of 1873. Many, many people died from this dreadful disease. For instance, William and Fannie Davis and their young son came to New Elizabeth from Needmore. They came on a Wednesday, and before dawn on Friday, Fannie felt violently ill. She died on Friday afternoon. She was just one of the many unfortunate people who died of cholera. There were no new cases of cholera after September 13, 1873. Cholera lasted about 3 weeks, with 24 deaths."

"Golly! In 21 days, 24 people died!"

"I know, it was terrible! Some people say cholera killed New Elizabeth. Before the cholera struck, New Elizabeth was a prosperous village. The extension of the railroad through the town in 1869 had opened a thriving lumber business. But after the cholera had struck, the five Sourwine families who had pioneered New Elizabeth's lumber trade, moved to a different town. The community's leading factory burned down. The stave and lumber factory was torn down, and the sawmill was sold and moved out of town. And that's the end of my story."

"Grandma, tell me more about Lizton. I mean New Elizabeth."

"Okay, well...Lizton was laid out by Jesse Veiley, in 1851. He called it

New Elizabeth, in honor of Mrs. Elizabeth Veiley. Later, the name was contracted to Lizton, at the request of telegraphers. By 1914, New Elizabeth had a population of 250 people."

"Boy, today there are definitely more than 250 people."

"Yes, you're sure right about that."

"Grandma, did the kids back then go to the Dairy Bar?"

"No dear, I'm afraid they didn't."

"Well, why not?"

"Because there wasn't a Dairy Bar back then. The first business was the State Bank of Lizton. It opened on December 1, 1910, in the K. of P. Building. It has always been a strong bank, and it was the first financial institution in the county to open after the bank moratorium in 1933."

"Did they have school back then?"

"Yes they did. The first school in what is now Union Township was taught in a cabin, that had been used for a dwelling. The school stood west of the creek on the Archibald Alexander farm north of the State Road. It is unknown who taught the first school here, but it is known that Elias Leach came to the township from Kentucky in the spring of 1836 and taught school there for about 8 months, until he was stricken with inflammatory rheumatism and he then had to quit. That was the last school taught in a cabin.

"Didn't they have school buildings, grandma?"

"It's funny you should bring that up, because I was just about to tell you that Lizton's first schoolhouse was built in 1837, on the west side of the Archibald Alexander farm. It was built of logs, hewn on two sides. It had a stick and mud chimney fireplace in the east end, a door on the south, two small high glass windows on the north, and one long glass window on the west, made by leaving out one log. The clapboard roof sloped to the north and south. The seats were made of slabs of logs with log pegs for legs. The seats were so high that a small boy or girls feet would reach about halfway to the floor. There were wide slabs, like shelves, along the north and west walls."

"Gosh, Grandma, my school is nothing like that! My feet touch the floor."

"Well, dear, we've come a long way. Are you ready to hear more about Lizton?"

"Ya!"

"Okay then, about 1848 a Christian Church known as Alexander's Church was built just north of the log schoolhouse, also on Alexander land. Then, in 1851, Jesse Veiley with Job Hadley as his surveyor, laid out the town of New Elizabeth along the State Road. A postoffice was opened by Thomas C. Parker on July 28, 1851, possibly in a store. Before this, people in the area had to go to Pittsboro for their mail."

"Boy, Grandma, I wouldn't want to go to Pittsboro to get the mail. I'd rather cross the street."

"I agree. Well Katie did you learn alot?"

"Ya, but tell me more, please!"

"Alright. Between 1875 and 1890, five brick one-room school houses were constructed in Union Township. Three of these replaced log houses.

The Indianapolis and Bloomington Railroad was built through the county just north of the town of New Elizabeth. Before the trains started in 1869, local residents erected buildings and started businesses on both sides of the tracks. The postoffice was also moved, and in 1869, mail was hauled by train instead of stage coach and wagons. It was about this time when New Elizabeth's name was changed to Lizton. New Elizabeth was too long for the railroad telegraphers."

"Grandma, I know why the mail was hauled by train instead of wagons."

"You do? Why?"

"Because it was faster!"

"Ohhh?"

"Yep, that's why?"

"Now, back to my story. There were new additions that were added to the town, and growth had been rapid since the frame one-room school had been built. When William Brown was trustee about 1875, a new school building was built on the east

side of the Lebanon road. It was a brick two-room building facing the west with a yard fenced with narrow boards.

This two-room building was soon outgrown, and when James E. Scott was trustee, about 1883, he added a full second story and put open stairway in the hall. The upstairs which was one large room until 1898, when a movable portion was installed also was used as a town hall or opera house, there being a platform in the north end of the room."

"I didn't know that one room could be made into an opera house."

"Well, see, you learned something. Now, in 1896, a high school was started in the upstairs area, with Grace Lowe as the first high school teacher and the principal Dr. S. O. Leak, teaching the 7th and 8th grades.

In the spring of 1905, the north wall of the schoolhouse cracked, leaving a bulging wall. The school was immediately closed."

"The reason it was closed is because the wall could've hurt somebody."

"Yes, I know. And if someone was to get hurt, the school could be sued. Now back to the story. L. K. Parr, the principal that year, had desks and school supplies moved to various places. The first three grades, with Eldora Nelson as teacher, were moved to the G.A.R. Hall over the hardware store. The next three grades, with Lizzie Leach as teacher, used the Odd Fellows Hall over the general store. The High School occupied the front room of the house.

A new eight-room building was erected during the summer of 1905. George W. English was trustee at this time and Cly Humston was the principal. Some of the township's one-room schools were closed and children came to the new Lizton school. Some of them drove horses and buggies and put them up at the Mahan barn.

"At my school, nobody does that! The teachers drive cars and most of the kids walk or ride a bus."

"I know. In the spring of 1917, Lizton High School had a super basketball team. They won most of their games."

"Grandma, my school has a couple of basketball teams."

"You see dear, Lizton has come a long way. Somethings change and somethings don't change. I guess that's just the way it is!"

"Thanks Grandma, I can't wait to tell the kids at school and my teacher how exciting Lizton is!"

HCHS President Judy Pingel recently received the following thank you note from one of the winners in our recent essay contest.

May 7, 1990

Dear Mrs. Pingel,

Thank you so much for the lovely medal. It's so pretty! The refreshments were excellent. I especially enjoyed the snickerdoodle cookies! It was a very interesting film strip. I really liked it, and from it I learned alot! The whole program was an enjoyable treat!

I'm sorry I only entered one year in the contest. When our teacher first informed us of the contest, all of my reading group wasn't too thrilled. But in only a couple of days, we managed to finish them up. It was really neat learning about Hendricks County. I only wish this project was available to 7-12 grades. I'm sure they would find it very interesting.

I would just like to thank you and all the rest of the Historical Society on behalf of a wonderful program!

Sincerely,

Elizabeth T. Devlin

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

The Hendricks County Historical Society has an impressive list of publications for sale including a county history and index, reprinted Prairie Farmer's directory, and an architectural survey of structures located in the county. These items are available for sale at each meeting or society officers can always assist if you wish to purchase an item from our publications list.

Several members have suggested topics they would like to see represented on the list or books they would like reprinted as was done for the Prairie Farmer's directory. The society officers would like nothing better than to expand the society's publishing efforts, but that involves money. With most of the money raised in dues being spent to produce the BULLETIN, the money from our publication sales will dictate how much (if any) publishing the society does in the future. So if you have been debating about an item on the list, please remember that your purchases will benefit the society immensely.

PUBLICATIONS LIST

HISTORY OF HENDRICKS COUNTY 1914-1976

Edited by John R. McDowell

---a collection of historical material and biographical profiles written by the people of Hendricks County. Hardbound, 640 pages, illustrated.

PRICE: \$35.00

INDEX TO HISTORY OF HENDRICKS COUNTY, 1914-1976.

Softbound, 62 pages.

PRICE: \$6.00

* * *

INTERIM REPORT: HISTORIC SITES & STRUCTURES SURVEY OF HENDRICKS COUNTY

Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, 1989

Softbound, 144 pages, illustrated.

--Listing of all pre-1940 structures of historical and architectural significance, along with brief histories of the county, townships, and towns.

PRICE: \$12.50

* * *

PRAIRIE FARMER'S DIRECTORY OF HENDRICKS COUNTY, 1920

--Includes directories of farmers, breeders, automobile and tractor owners of the county, along with other valuable and interesting information. REPRINTED 1985.

Softbound, 230 pages.

PRICE: \$18.00

* * *

HONORING OUR HERITAGE IN HENDRICKS by Ruth Mitchell Pritchard. 1974

Softbound, 43 pages, illustrated

--The stories behind the drawings on the Hendricks County Ancestor-Descendant Certificates issued during the Sesquicentennial.

PRICE: \$3.00

* * *

HENDRICKS COUNTY SESQUICENTENNIAL PLATES: \$5.00 (With purchase of any two items above, receive a free plate)

Betty Bartley uncovered this interesting article by Pearce Relander in the museum. The museum houses a substantial collection of artifacts donated by the Relander family detailing the culture of Native American Indians.

MONOGRAPH ON MY BROTHER, CLICK RELANDER
by PEARCE RELANDER

It does not take long to absorb memories that will stay with you for a long, long time, maybe forever. These remembrances are Indiana for I was born here and remained here about a year, then moving (California for a year, and then the return to Indiana for the next five years) when I recall without difficulty my first copper-toed boots, the miraculous blaze of Haley's Comet across the skies when I was enclosed in the back box or "trap" of a buggy when we were returning at night from somewhere. There was, of course the gradual absorption of general life on the farm; which also included, by the way, the birth of a brother.

Then back to California to a variety of places and the death of my mother. This was followed by a stay in Yorba Linda (B.N. - Before Nixon - but not by much) Here began regular school attendance under the eye of an Aunt but I was acutely aware by that time that the customs, life, terrain and even wild life of California was far from that of Indiana. Then back to Indiana again to another aunt, a grandfather and grandmother. Here Hoosier thoughts began to solidify in me as probably they did also in my brother.

There was school, the house and adjacent buildings and their animals, the fields to be tilled, the pond and the woods.

School was necessary and there was no bussing problem by the simple fact that there was no bus. We walked, weather or not. And the school was communal, if you wish to use the word in that context, for it was only one large room. The hot lunch problem was also a joke for the two cloakrooms, one for each sex, were on either side of the entranceway and far from the stove and lunch was always a cold or sometimes semi-frozen delight. However we always ate it for we were young and it tasted good. Then there were the schoolyard games which never varied vary much or were imaginative in type but were heartily enjoyed by all.

Cliques were formed both at school and on the road to and from our fount of education. Many friendships were made and, strangely, no enemies of any importance. News and gossip was exchanged and, being a boy, I was sure the news was handled by the boys and the gossip by the girls. That is a feeling difficult to overcome. Most of all, my brother and I could have been treated as an alien element for we were never allowed to attend school in overalls or everyday clothes but we had to "dress up" every day before we started our daily scholastic journey. We had to remove these clothes as soon as we arrived home for a farm is twentyfour hour factory. This sartorial differentiation did not make us two basically different from the others for I can clearly recall that when another boy and I were sent to a nearby woods to collect a tree for Christmas at school it was not at all difficult to connive with the other boy to spend all day at the task. It is hard to find a better common denominator than a mutual desire to avoid attending school as much as possible especially when you are very young.

In the house things were not quite the same either. For one thing it had a mammoth steam furnace for the rooms were many and the ceilings were high. It was also one of the few rural residences in that area that boasted such a contraption and it required a lot of stoking. The kitchen stove burned wood as did the fireplace and the ashes of the two latter were usually kept separate from those of the coal burning furnace for wood ash could be "bleached" for lye to be used in the making of soap if you were also provident enough to save all the old unusable greases and fats until you had an ample supply. All it took then was an iron kettle and the know-how.

To Be Continued

