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# HENDRICKS COUNTY

## HISTORY BULLETIN



VOLUME XIX NUMBER I

FEBRUARY 1988  
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THE HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DANVILLE, INDIANA

HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

ORGANIZED 1967

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Margaret Baker, Editor  
(Mrs. C. Rawleigh Baker)  
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William Hendricks, the man whose name our county proudly bears, said a history of his life would be "No brilliant incident, no disgraceful event - no virtues other than those of an honest man."

WILLIAM HENDRICKS, an essay by  
Judge Jeffrey V. Boles, president HCBS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE

HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for selecting me as your president for 1988-89. The very first thing I learned was how dedicated and hard all the members have worked to bring us all a better understanding of Hendricks County history. I want particularly to thank Libbe Hughes for helping me get started.

1988 will be an exciting year. Our meetings will be February 7, 1988, in the Hendricks Circuit Courtroom where Judge John Kendall will present the program on "A Brief History of Hendricks County." We will videotape his speech and keep it for our files. The May 1st, 1988, meeting will be at the Old Central Normal College in Danville, now Danville Junior High School and Blanche Wean will speak on a history of Central Normal College. The August 7, 1988, meeting will be in Pittsboro and we hope to have Leslie Olsen from Channel 8 speak on "Unearthing Indiana's Past." We are considering an early evening meeting for August 7th. Our final meeting for the year will be on November 6th, 1988, in Plainfield and we hope to have Judge Vincin Helton talk about important people from Hendricks County.

We have developed an exciting agenda for 1988. It is as follows:

1) Encourage new members; 2) Encourage more study of Hendricks County and Indiana history in our schools; 3) See what we can do about selling more of our copies of History of Hendricks County 1914 - 1976 and supplements; 4) In February, we need to consider appointments to the Museum Board; 5) Help the Museum find some "Old Suit Cases;" In February, we also need to set a meeting for all of us for an exciting project we have to offer involving the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana survey of Hendricks County historic sites and structures. The survey could begin in December of 1988 and we need member's thoughts.

Think about bringing a new member to our February 7th, meeting and the agenda we have set out for this year and let us know what you would like to do to help.

Judy Pingel is actively involved in helping with the meetings and you might want to call her at 745-4127.

The other day when I was at the doctor's office, I was asked the history of the name of our County. In this bulletin I have presented an essay on William Hendricks, the man whose name our county proudly bears.

As you all know, all of this is put together by Margaret Baker and she deserves our special thanks. See what you think of the essay. Looking forward to your comments. See you February 7th. Thanks for your confidence.

Jeffrey V. Boles, Pres.

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NOVEMBER 1st, 1987

Our last meeting of 1987 was held Nov. 1st in the beautiful Plainfield Public Library with Libbe Hughes, vice president, presiding. Carolyn Kellum gave the devotions based on the theme from Ecclesiastes, "For everything there is a season."

After reports from the secretary and treasurer, Dorothy Kelley talked about activities at the Museum which is attracting more and more visitors, thanks to Dorothy's enthusiasm and devotion and that of her faithful helpers.

The subject of an excellent talk by John C. Miller was W. T. HORNADAY, PLAINFIELD NATIVE SON, AMERICAN NATURALIST. That John had researched his subject thoroughly was made more evident by the pictures, maps and other articles he used to illustrate his talk. W. T. Hornaday is another native Hendricks Countian who can serve as an excellent role model and an inspiration to our generation as well as to generations to come and John certainly did him justice with his talk.

Thus ended a year of interesting meetings and outstanding programs that will challenge the Program Committee for 1988 ... a challenge they have already risen to as you will soon discover.

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WILLIAM HENDRICKS

"The Most Popular Politician in Indiana."

An Essay by  
Jeffrey V. Boles  
Judge, Hendricks Circuit Court

"Lest we forget - Lest we forget."

On December 20, 1823, Governor William Hendricks signed Legislation establishing a new county in his own honor ... Hendricks County ... to be located just west of Indianapolis and Marion County.

Who was William Hendricks? What did he do? Why is he known as Indiana's "Most Popular Politician?"

Imagine and remember the times of William Hendricks ... just a short time in Indiana and world history 1810-1837.

Imagine you are 28 years old as you leave a valley home in eastern Pennsylvania with a printing press to come to Indiana as "An adventurer without friends." You have no job and are "A stranger in search of opportunities," to Madison, Indiana.

Imagine an Indiana of less than 25,000 people inhabited by wild beasts and savage men. The people you meet are wracked by the scourge of fever. Towns are burning with the flames of local jealousy, while soldiers live without pay, and war widows and orphans starve.

Imagine an Indiana of bankrupt people in financial panic, frightened by a staggering National Debt. In Indiana land went unsold for one dollar an acre. All trade was conducted by barter because the money system was controlled by corrupt capitalists and bad bankers in Vincennes and Philadelphia.

Imagine it taking ten days to travel from Corydon to the village of 600 people in Indianapolis, because there were no roads.

Imagine getting news four to six weeks after things happen, in a country where the population has tripled in less than 40 years.

Imagine the fatal blight of slavery (like a creeping cancer) destroying the newly formed union.

Remember the Indian slaughter of Pigeon Roost, the terror of Tecumseh, and the fear of the Black Hawk War.

Remember the effect of the first white man ever judicially put to death in America for murdering an Indian.

Remember our America threatened on all shores by England's superior Navy of 1042 ships against America's 27. A Spanish King claims Florida, while Russia and Turkey menace Europe and beyond. South America and France are in bloody Revolution. Napoleon Bonaparte is in lonely island exile on St. Helena.

Does that time in history have a hauntingly familiar sound today?

Enter William Hendricks ... a patient gentleman. A husband and father of nine children, a teacher, and editor of the second newspaper in Indiana - the Western Eagle.

Hendricks was to become a lawyer, district attorney and prosecutor, secretary to the Indiana Constitutional Convention, state representative, Indiana's first member of the United States House of Representatives, Governor, United States Senator, and a faithful servant of the people of Indiana from 1811 until 1837.

William Hendricks was born on November 12, 1782, and was brought up on a family farm in Ligioner Valley, Westmorland County in eastern Pennsylvania. He was a self educated laborer and factory hand. He graduated from Jefferson College in Cannonsburg, Pennsylvania, in 1810 and took his printing press west to Cincinnati, where he taught school and studied law.

Hendricks moved to Madison, Indiana, in 1812, and lived there the rest of his life. He was to become part of the "Hoosier Triumvirate" of William Hendricks, Jonathan Jennings and James Noble.

In 1813, Hendricks was unanimously elected Clerk of the Indiana Territorial House of Representatives. When the new State of Indiana was approved by Congress and President James Madison, Hendricks became the Secretary of the State Constitutional Convention. In only 20 days the Convention wrote the first Indiana Constitution.

On August 5, 1816, Hendricks was elected as Indiana's first member of the House of Representatives in Washington, a position which paid two dollars a day. It took two to three weeks for Hendricks and his wife, Ann Paul Hendricks, to travel by horseback to Washington to attend deliberations.

Hendricks served three successive terms in the House dealing with local ~~issues of the times concerning where to print the laws of the Union, the critical~~ press of Indiana, bringing newspapers and a postmaster to Corydon. National issues involved paying soldiers, developing roads, securing Florida, paying pensions, dealing with Indian property, selling public land to pay for defense, debts, and expansion to the Pacific. Hendricks always kept the people of Indiana informed of what he did by writing letters and circulars to the people of our State. He answered all questions and mail from voters and never hid behind his office.

On August 5, 1822, Hendricks became the only Governor of Indiana to be elected unanimously. His strength in the election reflected the statewide feeling

that he was the most popular politician in Indiana.

Governor William Hendricks moved the capital from Corydon to Indianapolis, personally revised and published the laws of the State so that our people would know the rules that governed them. As a self educated man, he recognized the value of education and promoted the cause of education throughout the State. Hendricks supported construction of roads and canals. He actively encouraged public building in Indianapolis according to Engineer Ralston's plan for a model city patterned after the nation's capital.

Governor Hendricks was particularly interested in the construction and completion of the Cumberland Road east and west across Indiana - our Highway 40. By 1835, the Cumberland Road was gravel graded and bridged across most of Indiana.

On February 12, 1825, Hendricks resigned as Governor after being elected to the United States Senate. He continued to champion the causes of the people of the State. No political party could claim him as a backer. He became known as the "Popular Non-Partisan of the People" attending 95% of the calls to vote, while he served two terms in the Senate representing Indiana's people.

When he lost the 1836 election after 9 ballots in the General Assembly, he never again held public office. He retired graciously to his estate in Madison to manage his affairs as a quite wealthy man.

William Hendricks' nephew Thomas later became Governor of Indiana and Vice-President of the United States. Thomas Hendricks' impressive statue stands, without identification, on the southeast corner of the State House lawn in Indianapolis.

William Hendricks did not like to pose for artists. No portrait of his was known to exist until 1919, when his portrait was discovered in a painting titled The Old House of Representatives of 1822, done by Samuel F. B. Morse.

William Hendricks practiced politics as the art of the possible in an era of good feeling for the future of Indiana and America. He never attempted to speak on subjects he did not understand.

William Hendricks established the foundation of the State of Indiana like no other public servant over a period of 25 years, as the first member of the House of Representatives from Indiana, the Governor that moved the capital of our State to Indianapolis, the man who made the Cumberland Road across Indiana possible, and United States Senator.

Hendricks summed up his life simply by saying a history of his life would be "No brilliant incident, no disgraceful event - no virtue, other than those of an honest man."

On May 16, 1850, Hendricks died suddenly on his estate in Madison after inspecting his burial vault. William and his wife, Ann Paul Hendricks are buried in Fairmount Cemetery in Madison. Their gravestones list only their names, birthdates, and dates of their death. Biographer William Wesley Wollen summed up William Hendricks' career by saying "In the contest for fame there is sharp competition, and those only win who have endurance and mettle ... Hendricks was talented and energetic and he won."

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NEWS FROM PLAINFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Board of Trustees of the Plainfield Public Library has approved additional funding to staff the Guilford Township Historical Collection two more nights per week, beginning in March.

Also, additional staff will make the local history materials available for use one additional Saturday per month.

Evening hours are 6 - 8:30 on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Saturday hours will be from 9-noon and 1-5 p.m. on the second and last Saturdays of the month.

Persons are encouraged to call the library to confirm hours before coming from a distance, says Historical Librarian Susan Carter.

Regular hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from noon until 5 p.m., as well as evening and weekend hours previously mentioned.

The library has an extensive research collection for Hendricks County. It concludes microfilm census and available indexes, copies of all the published histories and W.P.A. index, W. P. A. vital statistics indexes and the H.C.H.S. Ancestor/Decendant volume.

Other research aids are a name and subject index to Plainfield newspapers (dating from the late 1800's through the mid-1950's), a Hendricks County obituary index (late 1800's - to date), and a file of local authors and artists. These resources are unique to the Plainfield library's collection.

Complementing these indexes are extensive holdings of microfilmed newspapers from Danville and Plainfield. A reader/printer is available to make paper copies from microfilm.

Published histories of other Indiana counties, some with accompanying indexes, as well as general historical and biographical books on a state level, may be used.

Another resource is a file of family history materials which have been donated by researchers concerning Hendricks County families. The library is grateful for donations of well-documented research. Often, by placing a copy of one's research where other genealogists may use it, the donor makes contacts and receives additional information.

For further information on the Guilford Township Historical Collection of the Plainfield Public Library, call Historical Librarian Susan Carter at 839-6602.

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MUSEUM MUSINGS

Approximately 113 curious visitors attended the CHRISTMAS AT THE MUSEUM Open House. The weather was cool and crisp with no rain or snow.

The Christmas tree was a real live cedar. As is our custom, we used no electrical decorations ... they were all home made of popcorn, corn shucks, peanuts, wool shavings and more. Duane Martin of Martin's Florist, North Salem,

decorated the house and all the bannisters even out to the street. He used red and white poinsettias and evergreen. The house was really alive and our thanks to Duane.

During the week before Christmas school groups from Brownsburg, Plainfield and Danville came to visit. The boys seemed to favor the military room and the jail cells while the girls liked the upstairs and the doll house. The corn sheller was a big attraction, too. The kids pronounced the place "Really Neat!"

Do any of you have any old suit cases you no longer use? If you do, please keep us in mind, for we have a project in the works where we need them.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A DOCENT? It's fun ... it's interesting ... and it's gratifying work. Come and get some first hand experience!

#### THE WORK ROOM OR THE FORMER JAIL KITCHEN

This room was the original kitchen for the jail residents as well as the prisoners up to the time the new jail on the east side of town was completed. The old fixtures, refrigerator, range and sink still work.

As we enter the room from the hall, we notice the door on our right that is the entrance to the basement. A metal desk is piled with business papers and acquisitions. The ceiling is even higher than the one in the parlor, of patterned metal, presumably tin. A short entrance way leading to another room contains drawer space with a shelf above, and of course, this shelf is full of many things including wig stands and wigs. The model is dressed in a black crepe lavishly decorated with beading, circa the 1920's. A coat rack holds dresses of long ago to be used some day on our models. A deep window seat is not only an inviting place but serves as storage place, too. Too bad they went out of style!

Jewell

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#### REMEMBERING

Our Society has suffered great loss in the recent deaths of two of our active members, Floyd Hufford and Harold Templin.

Floyd was a former president of the HCHS and was active and interested as long as his health permitted. Harold was always thereon the front row taping the programs especially for his father, William Templin, but also for the purpose of recording history.

It has been said, "Grief is the price we pay for love. Love is eternal. Death is a horizon, and the horizon is only the limit of our sight." It has also been written, "Death is not extinguishing the light, but putting out the lamp because the dawn has come."

To Margaret and Dorothy and their families, we extend our deepest sympathy. We, too, will miss these loved ones.

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THE STORY OF CENTRAL NORMAL COLLEGE

Education in Indiana has always been changeable and controversial so modern problems are based upon historical successes and failures.

When the pioneers came into Indiana "reading, writing and arithmetic" were taught in small groups. As the population increased the one room school provided the facility. As a means to higher education high schools grew up in many communities.

About 1850 the need for trained teachers was felt and small colleges called "Normal Schools" were organized. Many of those in Indiana were formed in the philosophy of the Albert Holbrook school which had been started at Lebanon, Ohio. Its philosophy was to train students to develop personally and also how to teach other students.

Indiana small colleges were started in Terre Haute, Muncie, Valparaiso, Marion and Ladoga. In 1876 the school which had been started at Ladoga became over crowded and the administrators sought means of growth. A building in Danville which had been vacated by the Methodist Seminary was available.

The merchants of Danville purchased the building and offered it to the administrators at Ladoga. Because of some controversy the school was moved quickly by residents of the Danville community. Many interesting stories are told by those who drove carriages and buggies to Ladoga and of the students and faculty who came on the train. Moving occurred in 1876.

These stories are covered in a book which is in process of publication. This book is a summary of year books, catalogs, minutes of the Board of Trustees as well as articles written by Edward Eikman, Virgil Hunt, Miss Bertha . Watts and Wilbur Richards.

Special articles include letters of the CNC boys from foreign fields, achievements and development of the National Rehabilitation Program for the Blind as developed by Russell (Sam) Williams, a graduate of CNC. As many names of persons who attended the school should make it interesting for geneologist.

Interest in the book has been shown by many alumni who have ordered the book which should be ready for distribution early in April.

To order - mail check for \$25.00 to Box 128, Danville, IN 46122. Make check payable to Central Normal - Canterbury College.

Blanche Wean, Treasurer

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THANKS TO HENDRICKS COUNTY NEWSPAPERS

Hendricks County has always been blest with newspapers. Libbe Hughes, in the fine talk she gave at a recent meeting, told of the early papers and the important part they played. They were the greatest method of communication then, and now, they are some of the best sources for history buffs and genealogists.

Today, in spite of television and radio and instant news flashes, our Hendricks County papers are filling a need. It is nice to know immediately when

something important happens. I am glad I live in this age of satellites and instant sights and sounds from all over the world, from the moon and outer space, and I have no desire to turn back the clock, but, to me, the printed word is still more satisfying than the hurried remarks by an announcer with one eye on the clock.

The following articles about Hendricks County of the past were "lifted" from local papers. This is not the first time we have done this, so it is time to say "Thanks!" to THE HENDRICKS COUNTY REPUBLICAN, THE PLAINFIELD MESSENGER, THE BROWNSBURG GUIDE-GAZETTE, AND THE HENDRICKS COUNTY FLYER. You make life in Hendricks County more fun!

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#### CENTURY-OLD PINE UPROOTED

Strong winds in Danville early Dec. 22 uprooted a century-old pine tree at 10 Cartersburg Road on Danville's south side at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Chenoweth and two daughters. The tree was one of a pair of "husband-wife" trees, believed to have been planted by an Irishman named Edward Courtney in 1857. He was then a farmhand for David Matlock, the builder and first owner of the house there. Mr. Courtney later married Mr. Matlock's granddaughter and became third owner of the residence, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

(From Hendricks County Republican)

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#### ALL AGES COME TO STONE'S CROSSING

CLAYTON - A new "ice cream parlor and pizza place" in Clayton has become a meeting place for all age groups. Stone's Crossing opened a few weeks ago, and owner Jan Kroger calls it "Cascade country."

A huge Cadet silhouette on the back wall emphasizes the point, and some of the waiters after school (and after practice) are Cadet football players.

But in the afternoon, Stone's Crossing takes on a different flavor - that's when the older folks come out for a dish of ice cream. They're the ones who remember when the building was the Grant Stone Store, general merchandise.

Sibyl Green, one of the afternoon "regulars" is Grant Stone's daughter. Her father, after teaching school for a few years, came to Clayton in 1905 and started the business, she recalled.

He bought it as an existing building, but in fact, his father had made the brick for the building in 1897, for the original owner.

Mrs. Green and her husband ran the general store from 1950 to 1960, after her father retired.

Instead of bolts of dress goods, today Jan Kroger is selling ice cream from cones to shakes, pizzas and sandwiches. There are booths and tables to "eat in", or pizza can be ordered to carry out.

Part of the decor is a reminder of the building's past - and the town's. Enlarged photographs of the days when it was still the Grant Stone Store are featured along the booth wall.

Because Jan encourages young people to come in, there are video games, too.

"We've found the day usually starts with the local workers around town coming in for lunch, then older folks drop by for ice cream, and after that, the school kids start. At suppertime, the pizza orders start rolling in."

After Cascade home games, the place is usually full to overflowing - a trend she wants to encourage. The hours encourage it, too. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday Stone's Crossing is open from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, from 11 a.m. to midnight, and Sunday from 2 to 10 p.m. The store is closed on Wednesday.

(From Hendricks County Flyer)

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#### BELLEVILLE REMEMBERS CADLE

One of the older towns in Hendricks County, Belleville has been marked in many ways by its past history, but no one has left a bigger impact on the town and its immediate area than E. Howard Cadle, a wellknown evangelist who arrived in the early 1930s.

Cadle built a summer log tabernacle on a campground on U.S. 40 just east of the town that also included cabins and "Chicken Dinner" restaurant for the hundreds of people who attended "camp meetings" there every summer.

Cadle also built a modern tabernacle in downtown Indianapolis. His radio show was widely heard throughout the Midwest and South.

In addition, he bought an orchard and 1,100 acres of farmland, as well as lots within Belleville itself. This led to his construction of six homes, three barns, an apple storage house, and a modern sawmill with which to provide the lumber for the rest.

In the late 1800s there were two or three blacksmith shops, a sawmill, tannery, and a couple of brick and tile factories.

Little remains today of all this, but there is still much of Cadle's work to be seen. The houses he built and sold in town are nearly all in good repair, but the log tabernacle is gone, as is the chicken dinner restaurant and the fancy board fence with which he lined U.S. 40 for several miles.

The apple sales house he built on the corner of U.S. 40 and Ind. 39 remains, and is still an apple house, now operated by Kehrein Orchards. Stone pillars that marked the entrances to a house, the tabernacle and the restaurant and campground are still standing. Cadle's own home, south of Belleville, is still a handsome dwelling. It was termed a "mansion" in its day.

The modern sawmill, however, is gone and there appear to be no photographs of it. It was located in the west half of the block where the Bell Inn is now.

(From Plainfield Messenger)

COATESVILLE VITAL 40 YEARS AFTER  
TORNADO THAT DEMOLISHED TOWN

COATESVILLE, IN - Coatesville community leaders plan to mark the 40th anniversary of the Good Friday tornado that virtually destroyed the town as a way to celebrate the community's regrowth.

Phyllis Schilling, of Schilling's Variety, said despite the destruction Coatesville managed to remain vital while other rural communities have over the years shriveled up.

"I just think it's so wonderful that a lot of the town was able to build back," Schilling said, "I'd love to be able to project the fact of how the town has grown back and grown ahead and has managed to thrive and keep businesses in town."

No dates for the celebration have been set. Organizers are trying to develop plans while gathering pictures and information about the tornado.

The tornado struck Hendricks County March 26, 1948. Many long-time Coatesville residents remember where they were and how they survived when the twister hit.

Schilling was in the nearby community of Hadley at the time. Schilling's mother grabbed her daughter, and ran downstairs.

"Our house didn't go, but the garage and the chicken house were gone," she said.

Schilling's brother went to Coatesville to help in the rescue and stayed for three days. The roof was ripped off the building that Schilling's store now occupies.

Wayne Kivett, of Kivett's Plumbing and Heating, relived the tornado with Schilling Thursday. Kivett used a cutting torch to free one of three victims trapped in a car just north of his shop when the twister hit. The other two people in the car died.

Approaching from the southwest, the tornado slammed into the town just before 6 p.m. It roared out of town in five or six minutes, but in that short time destroyed dozens of houses and several businesses.

Twelve Coatesville residents were killed and dozens were injured. American Red Cross crews arrived and the Indianapolis police and fire departments rushed in to assist.

Among the demolished businesses were Darnell's Elevator, Coatesville State Bank, Campbell & Powell Mortuary, Hudson Clothing Store, Coatesville Herald and Ernest Miller's Garage. Three of the town's four churches also were destroyed.

Twenty children who were practicing for an Easter program managed to flee Missionary Baptist Church before it collapsed. One resident told reporters that 80 of the town's 125 homes were destroyed and another 20 were damaged. An estimated 300 of the town's 500 residents were without shelter.

An 8mm film of the destruction is being transferred to videotape, Schilling said.

Those who wish to help or supply information may call Schilling at 386-2500.

(From Indianapolis News)