

H
977253
H-498

HENDRICKS COUNTY

HISTORY BULLETIN



VOLUME IV

NUMBER I

January, 1973

PUBLISHED BY

THE HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DANVILLE, INDIANA

Indiana Collection
PLAINFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY
PLAINFIELD, INDIANA

God Bless Thy Year

thy coming in

thy going out

thy rest

thy traveling about

the rough

the smooth

the bright

the drear

God Bless Thy Year

VOLUME IV
January, 1973
PUBLISHED BY
THE MEMPHIS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BANKVILLE, INDIANA

John C. ...
...

From the President

Members of the Hendricks County Historical Society Greetings:

We are beginning another year of activity. Two important considerations, which were mentioned at our October meeting but not acted upon, require our attention and action.

1. The 1973 Budget. Our present budget is inadequate to permit us to issue four bulletins each year. The cost of these bulletins exceeds our income from members' dues. If we continue issuing four bulletins we must either increase our annual dues or enroll many citizens who would enjoy our Society. Can we recruit them?

I have suggested to Mr. Hufford, Our Membership Committee Chairman, that he appoint at least one person from each township to help wage a vigorous membership drive. Such a campaign could accomplish two important results: (a) Bring our programs to a greatmany more people, who would benefit from membership in our Society. (b) Obviate the necessity for increasing our dues. What is your reaction to this idea?

2. Plans for creating a Historical Museum. No doubt you and others have items and articles (memorabilia) which would be significant contributions to a Historical Museum. Under our status as a corporate Society, one should have no fear that these contributions would be confiscated or lost. That would not happen. Your landing of such items would provide an excellent beginning for a historical museum, which would be a depository for them.

My predecessors have done some exploratory work toward finding such a depository. It may be possible to secure a portion of the old jail for our museum. Our Ways and Means Committee will need your ideas and help in accomplishing this end. Let us all do what we can to make this possible.

Your Program Committee has arranged a most interesting and educational series of programs for the coming year. Please come to these meetings and bring others who could be interested in joining our Society.

Sherman G. Crayton,
President

From the Editor.....

Publishing the Hendricks County Historical Bulletin is fun, but it also involves a great deal of work. Each day now, as I am struggling to get this altogether (as the now generation expresses it, and it is certainly apt in this endeavor!) I have more respect for Lois Crayton who did such a fine job last year. I sometimes wonder why I consented to follow in the footsteps of one so experienced, but I did, and here I sit, frantically burning the midnight oil in the midst of the Christmas rush!. Well, it serves me right for waiting for the deadline.

I thank all who contributed to this issue, and I am hoping that others will be inspired to send in stories, ideas or suggestions. For those who have stories or articles to submit, may I quote Joseph Pulitzer's advice to writers:

Put it before them briefly so they will read it, clearly so they will appreciate it, picturesquely so they will remember it, and above all, accurately so they will be guided by its light.

To all of you, a Glad New Year, and to the Hendricks County Historical Society, the Best Year Ever!

Margaret Baker
(Mrs. Rawleigh Baker)

Here are the new officers and committee members for the coming year.
Let's give them all the help we can.

President

Sherman G. Crayton
R.R. #2, Box 299
Danville, Indiana 46122
Tel. 539-4213

Vice-President

Floyd Hufford
33 West College
Brownsburg, Indiana 46112
Tel. 852-4161

Secretary

Mrs. Ruth Pritchard
R.R. #1, Box 209
Clayton, Indiana 46118
Tel. 539-6890

Assistant Secretary

Mrs. Pearl Edmondson
806 South Tennessee Street
Danville, Indiana 46122
Tel. 745-2573

Treasurer

Mrs. Blanche M. Wean
249 South Wayne Street
Danville, Indiana 46122
Tel. 745-2573

Historian

Mrs. Dorothy Templin
R.R. #2, Box 86
Danville, Indiana 46122
Tel. 539-4311

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Floyd Hufford, Chairman
33 West College
Brownsburg, Indiana 46112
Tel. 852-4161

(One member from each Township to be appointed by the Chairman)

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Mrs. Mary Jeannette Winkleman, Chairman
Pittsboro, Indiana 46167
Tel. 829-4351

Leonard Fleenor
R.R. #1
Coatesville, Indiana 46121
Tel. 386-7329

Mrs. Virginia Joseph
R.R. #1, Box 186
North Salem, Indiana 46165
Tel. 539-4064

Mrs. Frances Fisher
Pittsboro, Indiana 46167
Tel. 892-4780

Gerald Jones
North Salem, Indiana 46165

Mrs. Ida Mae Miller
525 East Main Street
Plainfield, Indiana 46168
Tel. 839-6883

PUBLICITY AND PUBLICATIONS

Mrs. Margaret Baker, Chairman
387 East Broadway
Danville, Indiana 46122
Tel. 745-2115

Mrs. Lois Crayton
R.R. #1, Box 299
Danville, Indiana 46122
Tel. 539-4213

Mrs. Ruth Hall
Lizton, Indiana
Tel. 994-5775

Mrs. Clara Reitzel
Stilesville, Indiana
Tel. 539-6138

WAYS AND MEANS

Harold Templin, Chairman
R.R. #2, Box 86
Danville, Indiana 46122
Tel. 539-4311

Robert Bales
West Lincoln Street
Danville, Indiana 46122
Tel. 745-2503

John Edwards
394 West Main Street
Danville, Indiana 46122
Tel. 745-2334

Clark Kellum
Stanley Road
Plainfield, Indiana 46168
Tel. 839-0586

Jack Gambold
R.R. #2
Coatesville, Indiana 46121
Tel. 386-7240

Rawleigh Baker
387 East Broadway
Danville, Indiana 46122
Tel. 745-2115

Willard Eggers
368 West Main Street
Danville, Indiana 46122
Tel. 745-2593

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR 1973

Sunday, January 14, 1973 at 2 p.m.
Danville Friends Meeting House
Miss Leona Stuart, presiding
Invocation: Peter Ford, Pastor
Program: The Singing School and the Singing School Master
Speaker: Mrs. Ida Mae Miller, Plainfield

Our Own Singing School Experience
Director: Mr. Gerald Jones, North Salem
Benediction: Peter Ford, Pastor
Social Hour: Center Township in charge
For Display: Singing School books, Pictures, tuning forks,
fiddles, flutes and other articles known to have
been used in Singing Schools dating from about
1830 to 1895.

Sunday, April 8, 1973 at 2 p.m.
Coatesville United Methodist Church
Mr. Leonard A. Fleeher, presiding
Invocation: The Reverend David Lindsay
Program: Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the Cyclone Disaster
Benediction: The Reverend David Lindsay
Social Hour: Clay and Franklin Township in charge
For Display: Pictures and articles concerning the disaster. This
includes Danville and other places of the county affected
at the same time.

Sunday, July 8, 1973 at 2 p. m.
North Salem Christian Church
Mr. Gerald Jones, presiding
Program: Fourth of July and other Gala Days
Speaker: Mrs. Frances Fisher, Pittsboro
Social Hour: El River and Marion Townships in charge
For Display: Pictures and related articles.

Sunday, October 14, 1973 at 2 p.m.
Eaton Hall, Brownsburg
Mrs. Mildred Smith, presiding.

Program: "So You Think You've Got It Tough"
Speaker: Mr. Floyd Hufford, Brownsburg
Social Hour: Lincoln, Brown and Middle Townships in charge
For Display; Pictures, tools, articles concerning early industries
and trades.

Foot Note: Please include your name and any interesting
information on the articles that you plan to
bring to these meetings for display.

YOU'LL BE SORRY IF YOU MISS THIS ONE!

Mary Jeanette Winkleman and her fine Program Committee have done it again! They have come up with a series of intriguing programs, and our first promises to get us off to a fine start. Ida Mae Miller, who, we will all agree, is an authority on many subjects historical, will tell us all about the Singing Schools of the past. We will learn the reasons for sing schools in the first place, where they started and how church choirs developed from them. She will discuss how the music was written, and how the classes were organized. Using charts, pictures, singing school books, and tuning forks, she will take us back to some of the most delightful occasions of the past. And if that weren't enough, Gerald Jones will lead us in singing some of the old songs. Sounds like a gay, sparkling afternoon, doesn't it? I wouldn't miss it for the world.

THE NEW WINCHESTER SCHOOL 100 YEARS AGO

Indiana Collection
PLAINFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY
PLAINFIELD, INDIANA

By: Dorothy Templin

The New Winchester school 100 years ago. According to a deed recorded June 6, 1864 at 9 o'clock A.M., Isaac West and Mary West, his wife, of Hendricks County, State of Indiana, convey and warrant to Michael Higgins, Trustee of Marion Township in the County of Hendricks and the State of Indiana and his successors in office as such Trustees, so long as the same shall be used and occupied for school purposes for the sum of eight dollars and seventy five cents (to be paid back to said Trustee or his successors in office when the same shall cease to be used or occupied for school purposes as aforesaid) the following Real Estate in Hendricks County in the State of Indiana to-wit:

of Indiana to-wit: a part of the E $\frac{1}{2}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of S5 in T15N R2W and bounded as follows: Commencing at the SE corner of said half quarter and running north 10 rods; thence west 8 rods; thence south 10 rods to the section line; thence east 8 rods to the beginning; containing $\frac{1}{2}$ acre.

This is one half mile west of New Winchester on U. S. highway 36 and a map of 1865 shows a school in this location. A School District Record book for District #4, the New Winchester district, and for the years 1870-1878 tells of meetings of the patrons "persuant to notice" to elect a director each year; elect the teacher or teachers; set the date for the beginning of school; decide on the length of the school term; and the decision to locate the new school in New Winchester. The following is from the minutes of the meetings with no correction of spelling or punctuation:

March the 21st 1870. New Winchester Ind school meeting met and was call to order By the Director and Being G.W. Sharp and John Thomas as canidates for the school and the vote was taken by Baliting G.W. Sharp received 4 and John Thomas 11 votes. Also vote was take to Elect James Bowen as Director for the insuen year for District No 4 W.T. Stevenson, Director

October 1st 1870 School meeting met and come to order and Elected James Bowen for Director by majority of the members that was present W.T. Stevenson

1st Saturday October 1870 James Bowen Being Elected and duly sworn to perform the

duties of School director in District No 4 in Marion township Hendricks County Ind. Took possession of School House Books and such other things as Belong thereto.
James Bowen Director

August 12th 1871 District No 4 Marion Tp. School meeting met according to arrangement after the meeting being called to order there being three applicants for Said School they proceeded to ballot with the following result G.W. Sharp 2 votes Miss Julia Paul 5 Mr. Hardin 10 votes being a majority was declared to be Duly Chosan. Also ordered the following Repairs to be made the fence to be Repaired and to dig a well and wall it to underpin the House etc. Jas Bowen, Director.

April 27 1872 School meeting met according to Notice the meeting being called to order the question of continuing the School upon taking vote it was Decided to continue the School to 3 months term

Aug. 15 1872 Meting of patrons of School according to notice The meeting being called to order By the director Miss Julia Paul was unanimously chosen to teach the fall and winter School. Also that the Trustee be Requested to Employ an assistant teacher if in accordance with the Law or pay a price Suitable for the teacher to employ help.
James Bowen

Aug 22nd 1873 School meeting met persuant to notice with Franklin Underwood Director, in the chair. And after stating the object of the meeting proceeded to the election of a teacher which resulted in a unanimous election of Charles M Griggs to teach the ensuing term to begin the 3rd Monday of September 1873 to continue for a term of six months. On motion the Director was ordered to have the house cleansed by time of beginning the School. Esquire Stevenson was appointed to wash the house. It was moved that there be a meeting held on the 1st Tuesday of October 1873 to consider the propriety of Locating the new School House in prospect. Motion carried--moved to adjourn--carried.
Franklin Underwood Dir

1st Saturday October 1873 Persewant to a notice of School District No 4 met and in the absence of the director R.F. Harper was called to preside and on motion R.R. Harper was Elected Director and on motion meeting voted unanimous to recommend to the Trustee to build the School house now under contemplation as near to the town of New Winchester in School District No 4 in Marion Township Hendricks County Indiana as sootable ground can be obtained on the best terms.
Adjourned R.F. Harper, Dr.

(A deed made on June 10, 1874 stated Elizabeth West, Washington A. West and wife, Catherine, Malinda E. West Dooley and Aaron Dooley, her husband, Madison P. West and wife, Sarah E., Mary A. West Stamp and husband, Daniel Stamp, Harriet E. West and Sarah J. West all of Hendricks County, State of Indiana and being all of the heirs of Archibald West deceased convey and warrant to Xury E. West Trustee of Marion Township, Hendricks County State of Indiana and his successors in office for the sum of two hundred dollars the following described Real Estate situated in Hendricks County, State of Indiana to wit: Lots numbered one, two, three, four, five, six, seven and eight in Block Five in Hadley addition to the town of New Winchester. Recorded 24th day of October AD 1874 at 11 o'clock A.M.)

August the 14 1874 Persewant to notice meeting of School District 4 met for the purpose of selecting a teacher or teachers to teach the fall and winter school the object of meeting stated by the Director vote taken C.M. Grigs was elected to teach the primary department and further instruct the trustee to select a teacher for the hier grade on the best terms possible and by the request of the trustee a comity was appointed to assist him in buing seets for the new house comity James Boen Franklin Underwood and Henry Hays adjourned R.F. Harper Director

October 3, 1874 the regular anuel meeting of School District No 4 met meeting called to order by Director and vote taken and R.F. Harper elected Director and further vote to request the trustee to fense the new school house with a good

strong plank fence on the east and north as soon as possible for the securing of the house adjourned R.F. Harper Dir

(There were no minutes for the year 1875 but a New Winchester item in the July 22, 1875 issue of Union, a newspaper stated; M. Higgins trustee has had our school yard neatly fenced..Let us have a school bell next.)

This was the location of the New Winchester school for 90 years.

FROM A TALK BY JOHN L. OLIVER
GIVEN JULY 8, 1972
AT
WHITE LICK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

John L. Oliver is the great grand son of two Civil War veterans, Isaac B. Waters, a cabinet maker and wood worker of some note, and Melville Phillips. Both were pioneer settlers in Middle Township and lived out their days here.

John explained in his opening remarks the reasons for his great interest in the Civil War which dated back to a trip to Vicksburg in 1958, and then more recently, a trip to Gettysburg via Williamsburg, their original destination. He admitted to being bitten hard by the Civil War "bug" and began an earnest search for information about his own grandfathers' participation in the War between the States. He became acquainted with the Civil War Roundtable in Indianapolis, first became treasurer, then vice president and program chairman, and was elected president this last year.

From various histories and documents he compiled much interesting information about Hendricks County men during the years 1861-1865.

The militia Roll of September 1862 lists 2,436 men in Hendricks County between the ages of 18 and 45. There were occasional comments about conditions which might exclude them from service: one had 2 fingers missing from his right hand; one man had a weak back; another had lost a leg; another was blind. Another entry said "This one hasn't got sense enough to go in the army". Other reasons for exemptions were "Conscientiously opposed to bearing arms", "British subject", and one man from Guilford Township said he was a refugee from North Carolina and was sworn not to take up arms against the Confederate States of America. Another name had beside it the word "Dwarf".

The roll of volunteers for U.S. service lists 1,356 men from Hendricks county already in service as of September, 1862 which when added to the militia rolls, totals 3,792, less 506 that were exempted. The net total was 3,286 men either already in or available for service.

The men from Hendricks County had to go elsewhere to enlist and regimental records do not give the county or many of the towns credit. Indianapolis probably accommodated most of them. One of John's grandfathers, a perfectly good citizen of Pittsboro, is listed as being from Indianapolis. Of the 156 organizations Hendricks County was represented in over 50 of them by one or more men. John did not make a count of the individuals in the regiments, but instead tabulated the number of townships represented.

One regiment, the 70th had men from all 11 townships in it. It was being recruited by Lt. Benjamin Harrison who must have had a powerful appeal in this area for more than 1,241 men reported to camp, although not all were Hendricks County men. Two regiments, the 7th and 51st drew men from 10 townships. One reason the 7th drew so many was that it was the second regiment of volunteers recruited. There was a great rush to enlist so that the rebellion of the upstart states could be put down in a hurry.

John interspersed his discussion of the military to describe the soldiers, the lack of supplies, the officers, the training of men, the formation of various military units, life in the camps, sanitary and health conditions in the army, and many other items of interest to the historians.

There were seven Indiana Volunteer regiments in which Hendricks County men were enlisted: the 7th, 14th, 19th, 20th, and 27th, all of which took part in the great battle of Gettysburg. He also mentioned the 51st and 70th because they were more heavily endowed with local boys. The 51st organized at Indianapolis, was mustered into the Federal Service in December 1861. It marched to Bardstown, Nashville, participated in the battles of Shiloh, seige of Corinth, Perryville, Ky., and Stone's River. The regiment was captured May 3 and was exchanged after the escape from Libby Prison led by Colonel A.D. Streight in 1863. The Indianapolis Journal for October 9, 1861 states in part: "The 51st Regiment, with Colonel A.D. Streight, has 6 companies in Camp Morton, one of which arrived from Hendricks County Monday evening. To the 51st goes the honor of having the only Hendricks County Medal of Honor recipient: Captain Milton T. Russel, Co. A. The regiment lost 1 officer and 55 enlisted men in action and 6 officers and 202 enlisted men by disease.

The Indianapolis Journal, July 17, 1862 said "Lieutenant Benjamin Harrison, recruiting officer for the 70th regiment has enlisted and sworn into service over 20 men. Three responsible gentlemen have agreed to obligate themselves to pay \$50 to each of the first three men of family who will enlist in this company." And again in August, an item from the Indianapolis Journal "Captain Burgess, commandant of the 70, reported 1171 men in camp, and 70 more to arrive today, making 1241, or over 200 more than the regimental complement." This regiment participated in the battles of Resaca, Cassville, Dallas, New Hope church, and Allatoona Hills, Kennesaw Mountain, Peachtree Creek and participated in the seige of Atlanta. It marched with Sherman to the sea and presented Savannah to President Lincoln as a Christmas gift. They were mustered out of service June 1865, having lost 2 officers and 96 enlisted men in battle and 2 officers and 103 enlisted men by disease.

The latter part of John's talk was a description of the Battle of Gettysburg, mentioning points of interest to the modern tourist, and showing a series of slides. He evidenced a great knowledge of his subject and rightfully deserved the title of "expert".

Frances Fisher
(Mrs. Roy Fisher)

YE OLDE SPELLING BEE!

Back in the early days of Hendricks County, there were many country schools. There was a friendly sort of rivalry among these schools, and, as one way of letting this boil over, as it were, was the old fashioned spelling bee.

One school would issue a challenge to a neighboring school for such a contest, and there was much cramming and excitement for this big event.

The visiting school would engage a farmer, usually the father of a pupil, to take his team and wagon equipped with a hay rack or special platform like body for hauling hay, throw a sufficient amount of hay or straw on the wagon to make it a soft ride, and the pupils would gleefully pile on the wagon for the ride. The older ones would pair off boy and girl and hold hands. The young ones would gang up in a bunch and with many glances at the older ones, snicker and make faces at each other at the show of affection entirely innocent of any such extacy.

Then on arrival at the other school, noisily and with much banter and laughter, they would greet each other and line up each school on one side opposite the other and the spelling would begin. Each time a pupil missed a word, he would sit down. When all were down to one, this one was given another word, which, if it was spelled correctly, his or her school won, and if missed it was a tie contest. Then the ride home, which was much the same as the ride over, except if the winners, it was much noisier, and even the lovers forgot in their joy at winning, and I will leave it to your imagination how it was if they lost... "Nuff said".

The school room used for the occasion was lighted by reflector oil lamps hung at intervals on the walls, and gave only an eerie dusk-like appearance that seemed to awe the pupils into silence with only the teacher's voices as they droned out the

words. The teachers alternated at pronouncing the words. The room was heated by a big round upright stove that was fed sticks of wood as needed to keep the room comfortable. When it was over, they bundled up in gloves and toboggans, home knit, and with wool socks and high button shoes for the girls, and boots, copper toed, for the boys, who cared for old man winter? This was a big event and would be re-lived for weeks or perhaps months.

Hal J. Wilson 5-26-71

THE TILDEN SCHOOL FIRST GRADUATING EXERCISES, 1896

Shortly after our meeting at the White Lick Church, I received a letter from a friend of mine. She enclosed a letter written by my father, May 18, 1896, to a former pupil of his. My father taught school at the Tilden School, but I do not know how many years. But in 1895, he went to Terre Haute State Normal, as it was known then to further his education. A former pupil of his, Miss Minnie Patterson, apparently was preparing her graduation speech for Graduation Exercises from the Tilden School. She wrote to my father asking his advice on a number of topics: He answered, in part:

"Dear Pupil,

In reply to yours of the 15th will say that I am more than pleased with your decision. You are doing what I hope you will have no cause to regret.

I rather like the fourth subject you spoke of, viz: "We Pass for What we Are". I like that line of thought.

I think you can work in some of our last year's thoughts to good advantage.

You can treat that subject from several different points of view. You can take the social side, the religious side, or the behavior side (actions and words). You can make something nice out of this if you handle it just right."

He wrote at length of various facets of the subject that she might pursue, recommending a number of books. He concluded, "If, at any time, you need help or want to ask about anything, I want you to feel free to write. I am quite busy, but not too busy to talk or write to you about this.

Yours, as ever,

W.F. Franklin

Miss Minnie Patterson sent her prepared speech to him at Terre Haute, and he returned it with his suggestions and corrections written in the margins. It is too long to include here, but my friend, Mrs. Mabel Shorter Robinson, included an account of the Tilden Graduation Exercises as follows:

Tilden Graduation Exercises

The first annual commencement of the Tilden public schools took place at the White Lick Presbyterian Church, June 29, 1896. The house was filled to its utmost capacity with an attentive audience. Invocation was offered by the Rev. H. L. Dickerson, followed by mandolin and guitar music. The march was rendered by Miss Mary Medsker.

Robert Worrell

opened the exercises proper, handling the subject "Getting the Right Start" in a very creditable manner and with an understanding and delivery that is not often exceeded by one of his age and opportunities.

Minnie Patterson

took the ground that "We Pass for What We Are", a proposition that seems to us to

require an extra degree of courage to assume in this age when character and reputation are frequently wide apart. From her standpoint, she handled the subject admirably and left a good impression on her auditors.

Eva Ward

drew on her imagination for "The Pleasures of Hope" and her life will be uncommonly blest if she will but live in the realms she painted.

Ora Medsker

sought to impress his auditors with "The Pleasures of An Education", and, when considering the manner in which he presented the subject and the intelligence of his audience, it is presumed that he accomplished his purpose.

Julia Hufford

last on the program, followed the cue of George Eliot and based her remarks on "Silas Marner", out of which romance she weaved practical and important moral lessons worthy of the thought and effort given to her subject.

After music, County Superintendent Hostetter presented the diplomas and delivered an interesting talk on the necessity of giving still greater attention to the teaching of morals and our public schools. His remarks were well founded and were well received.

The Misses Ethel and Edith Free entertained the audience at this juncture with a song that captured the crowd.

Flowers and books were profusely presented to the graduates, and the whole proceedings were justly characterized as more than ordinarily instructive and entertaining. The graduates, their parents and firends, and their late teacher, W. F. Franklin, may justly feel proud of these exercises.

Death entered our ranks this year and claimed three of our members. Mr. Murat Keeney, a prominent Pittsboro native, who, although unable to attend our meetings, gave us a most generous gift to establish the Hendricks County Historical Museum Fund. Mrs. Gertrude Kurtz of Danville R.R., the mother of Mrs. Randall Joseph, was a faithful attender and added grace and charm to any gathering. Mrs. Bonnie Nagelson, Danville, supported our organization because she believed in it. We shall miss these dear members, but they will always occupy a special spot in our hearts and memories.

Purdue University Studies, the book-publishing arm of Purdue University, is offering a new book, "Indiana Canals", by Paul Fatout. The book is being made available as follows: retail price is \$10.50. 20% discount is allowed on orders for single books, 33 1/3% on two, three or four books, and 40% off on five or more. If you are interested, Ruth Pritchard will have a brochure of this handsome book at the next meeting.

William V. Shannon once wrote, "To reject the past is to deprive today of its meaning tomorrow."

Chet Huntley said on a recent broadcast, "Maybe the answer to our future is in our past."

Recollections

by George L. Leak

I was the son of James Lawrence Leak and Harriet Amanda Buzzard Leak and was born February 9, 1846 on farm located in the South East Quarter of Section 20 Township 17 North Range 1 West or what might be a more proper description, as my parents were Pioneers. To say born in the woods north west of what is now known as Lizton. in the wilds of north Hendricks County. I was one of a family of eleven

children, seven boys and four girls. The oldest, a sister, born Sept. 14, 1840 and the youngest, twin brothers, born December 27, 1860.

The writer of this sketch first started to school to a man by the name of C. G. Stamper, on the 14th day of March 1853. You may wonder why I am so accurate about the date of my first entering school. To which I will say from Memory and from the fact that I found the contract of this school among my fathers papers, and which I now have in my possession. This school was taught in a log house which was located on the east side of the road on what is now the Iza Kennedy farm and opposite the Luther Mahan property at Lizton. The house had one door which was in the south side of the building. A stick and mud chimney in the east side and one maybe two small windows high up in the north side and a narrow window near the whole length of the building on the west side, which one log was left out for the window. I recollect that one teacher bared this window with a long slab to keep the pupils from looking out at the window towards the road. This same teacher permits what we then called "A loud school" or studying by spelling and reading their lessons over in an audible voice, in which the noise sounded much like the hissing of geese and the humming of the bees.

The furniture of this house consisted of seats made out of split slabs with two holes bored in each end and where long wooden limbs were driven for legs to the seats. The seats were so high from the floor that a small boy or girl's feet would reach about halfway down to the floor. Then on one side of the house were wooden pins driven in the wall on which were long and wide shelves fastened which were used for writing desks. But then as well as now, we had some progressive citizens, and some of these progressive ones made one or two long seats of sawed and dressed poplar lumber, which had backs to them.

I went to school in this building at short intervals to C. G. Stamper, John D. Hiatt, William G. Elder, and James Burnett. And in the fall of 1855 John D. Hiatt had started in on a 60 day or 90 day school, but owing to the prevalence of so much fever and ague among his pupils, he abandoned his school, and never afterwards was any school taught in this building. This old school building was moved over on the south side of the State Road by Julius A. Jeger and used for a wood house.

Some of the teachers that taught in this old building prior to my school days were such distinguished citizens as Elias Leach, Job H. Davis, a Mrs. Milligan, James Jackson and Frank Chrisman. The three that were not citizens of this vicinity, consequently I dont know where they belonged. But it is quite probable that a number of other teachers taught in this old building, that are not mentioned in this list.

Northwest of the No 2 abandoned brick school building, a little to the south of the Albert Chrisler farm house, was another log school building which was an exact duplicate of the old log school building at Lizton, except that it was het by a large old fashioned box stove. In the fall of 1853, I went to this school for a short period to one Elkin Toney. I recollect that my first day at this school I was accompanied by an older brother and two cousins. As we never before had been to this building, we got lost in the woods in trying to find the school house and finally found ourselves near a residence where we were guided to the school house. It was near noon when we reached the school building, altho we had been near it.

These "Recollections" were written by George L. Leak a few days before he died March 21, 1920.

By
Eldora Nelson Keeney

I started to school when I was seven. There was quite a discussion as to where I should go to school. The Groover children across the road went to the

shockley school, but the family (this would be her grandmother Leak and her two unmarried Uncles George L. and Robison Leak) preferred the town (Lizton) school. I carried my dinner bucket, my slate pencil and a writing tablet, and wore a little pink sunbonnet. I was put in the chart class for one day only. I'm sure that took me down a notch or two but I did what I was told and by the next day I was started in first grade. For the first three years I went only in good weather and was taught at home the rest of the time. After the third year I missed very little school.

Uncle Robison was teaching at Lambert Ridge School and walked as far as Raintown and down to the State Road. So it was decided that I should go as far as Lizton with him. He took me to the old hotel which stood about where Steward Pritchett's house now stands. From there I walked with someone. When I was older I went down the road and went with the Leach girls for a short time, but Uncle George was not happy about it, as it was so much nearer through the pasture. He marked a path through the woods for me by standing limbs up against the trees and for ten years I went to school across Thompson's pasture. The only stock in it was horses. My experience across that pasture taught me to love nature. How could I ever forget the butternut grove, the young maple grove, the pawpaws and May apples, the "grinnies" that played on the old rail fences and the occasional shiny blue racer. Sometimes I would stop and play in the maple leaves, they were so pretty and fragrant. I certainly count those years as a definite part of my education.

I enjoyed reciting as we did in those days. My first recitation was given for the Literary Society. Miss Hubble, my teacher, dressed me in her hat and shawl to recite the following:

Mrs. Gookins
My name is Mrs. Gookins,
My husband he is dead;
I've got five little children
They're all at home in bed.
And now I must be going,
I've so much work, you see,
Next time I'll bring my children
and then we'll stay to tea.

I had been taught at home to read, to write, and my numbers, so I sailed along very satisfactorily in my school work. I had access to what books Uncle Robison had and I remember that I read the "Snow Image" and Grandmother's story of "The Battle of Bunker Hill" and "Evangeline" when I was eight or nine years old. The winter I was at Uncle Henry's, after Grandmother died, I read all the "Leather Stocking Tales." Ora was teaching that winter at the Hall School house. I was pleased to have good books to read for they helped me to enjoy history and good literature. I memorized all the readers, learned the alphabet backwards, and could say the names and dates of all the presidents.

My pal in grade school was Mary Montgomery. She later married Charley Harris and had a nice home north of Danville. My teachers in the grades were Belle Baker, 2 years--Willa Hubble, Jake Thompson, John R. Dailey, James Gillispie, and Sherman Waters.