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HENDRICKS COUNTY

HISTORY BULLETIN



VOLUME VII NUMBER I

January 1975

PUBLISHED BY

THE HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DANVILLE, INDIANA

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HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

ORGANIZED 1967

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Annual Dues \$3.00 Payable in October

H C H S

The Hendricks County History Bulletin is published quarterly in January, April, July, and October prior to our meeting dates. It is distributed without charge to members of the Society, to Hendricks County Public Libraries, and to Hendricks County School Libraries, as well as to a number of other libraries; individual copies \$1.00. Communications concerning back copies or individual copies should be addressed to our secretary. Dues should also be mailed to the secretary. Contributions or suggestions to The Bulletin should be mailed to the editor.

Margaret Baker, Editor
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H C H S

LOVE CAME DOWN AT CHRISTMAS

I keep a part of Christmas
For it helps to add a glow,
To the January darkness
And the February snow.
If March is cold and blustery
And though April brings us rain,
The peace and warmth of Christmas
With its happiness remain...

There's a beauty when it's Christmas
All the world is different then,
There's no place for petty hatred
In the hearts and minds of men.
That is why my heart is happy
And my mind can hold a dream,
For I keep a part of Christmas
With its peace and joy supreme.

Author Unknown

H C H S

H C H S

President's Message

Greetings to each member of our Historical Society!

We begin the year of 1975 with high hopes and great ambitions. We have been offered the use of the rooms at the 106-year old jail to use as a museum under the management of the Historical Society. The very fact that it has an historical background is a feature that will add interest to the Museum, in addition to whatever items are placed there. We are indebted to the County Commissioners for the gift of rooms. Let us all work to make this gift a successful and going concern.

The Program Committee has prepared four meetings that will be of interest to each member. We hope you will attend these meetings and we also urge and invite any prospective member to come, too.

It will be my pleasure to serve as your president in 1975, and I want to take this opportunity to thank those persons whose suggestions have already been a great help in planning the coming year.

Dessie Davis Huddleston

H C H S

October 13, 1974

On Sunday, October 13th, 34 members of our Society gathered at Brownsburg and traveled by bus to the historic Connor Prairie Settlement, near Noblesville, and spent the afternoon browsing through the famous village. Our thanks to Jack Gambold for making the arrangements. Following our return to Brownsburg, a short business meeting was held at Eaton Hall. Mr. Hufford, retiring president, thanked his committees for the year's work, and reported on a tentative agreement between the Hendricks County Commissioners and the Hendricks County Historical Society, Inc. concerning museum space in the former Hendricks County Jail. Officers for 1975 were then elected. (These officers are listed elsewhere.)

H C H S

January 12, 1975

Our first meeting of the year will be held, January 12, at 2:00 P.M. at the United Methodist Church, West Mill St., Danville. During this important business session, we will discuss and vote upon the agreement between the Hendricks County Commissioners and the Hendricks County Historical Society, Inc. Every member should attend for this will be a big decision. Following the business meeting, Mrs. Ruth Hall will preside over the program entitled "Do You Remember?" The making of lye soap, hucksters and peddlers, hog-killing day, the old family doctor, and threshing day will be discussed by Mr. Roy Fisher, Mrs. George Huber, Mrs. Nellie Beagley, and Dr. Malcom Scamahorn. Any old pictures or artifacts of these occasions or customs will be fine for the display table. The ladies of Center and Marion Townships will be in charge of the social hour.

H C H S

MEETINGS FOR 1975

January 12, 1975 - 2:00 P.M.

Danville United Methodist Church

Business Meeting

Program: "Do You Remember?" Ruth Hall presiding

Social Hour - ladies of Center and Marion Townships

April 13, 1975 - 2:00 P.M.

Lizton Christian Church

Business Meeting

Program: Literary Works Then and Now - Dr. Sherman Crayton

Social Hour - ladies of Union, Eel River, and Middle Townships

July 13, 1975 - 2:00 P.M.

Plainfield Public Library

Business Meeting

Program: Hendricks County Fairs - Mrs. Roy Fisher

Social Hour - Guilford, Lincoln, and Brown Townships

October 12, 1975 - 2:00 P.M.

Place of meeting T B A

Business meeting

Program: Headlines of Yesteryear - The Rev. James Shockley

Social hour - Washington, Liberty, Franklin and Clay Townships

H C H S

BACK BULLETINS

Mary Jeanette Winkelman asks those of you who have back bulletins coming to you to pick them up at our meeting. She always has a supply with her as well as a record of who should have them. This will be a great savings in postage if you will cooperate.

H C H S

The entire membership was saddened with the death of Mrs. Jean Sellars, wife of Mr. Claire J. Sellars, Mooresville, R. R. Jean and Claire have contributed greatly to our Society and she will be sadly missed. Always ready to fill in at the piano or to do whatever was asked of her, her enthusiasm and charm lent a special sparkle to her every endeavor. Our deepest sympathy goes to Claire in his great loss.

Mrs. Ina Russell, of Earlham, Iowa, also lost her husband.

H C H S

MUSEUM NEWS

Much work and planning have been done in the last few months in anticipation that the long-dreamed-of Historical Museum might become a reality. Representatives of the Society have met with the Board of Commissioners and their legal counsel, and have drawn up an agreement which now awaits the sanction of the Society. This board consists of the officers of the Historical Society, Hendricks County Council president, Marvin Money, the Hendricks County Commissioners, Lowell Franklin, Howard Gibbs, and Arthur Himsel, and the following representatives from each township: Brown, Scott Hosier; Center, Willard Eggers; Clay, Sherman Crayton; Eel River, Rita Lieske;

Franklin (none yet); Guilford, Clark Kellum; Liberty, Helen Walker; Lincoln, Dorothy Kelley; Marion, Dorothy Templin; Middle (none yet); Union, Ruth Hall; and Washington, Donald Shields. That every member may know just what is being decided, we include a copy of the agreement.

AGREEMENT TO OPERATE A HENDRICKS COUNTY MUSEUM
IN THE FORMER HENDRICKS COUNTY JAIL

This Agreement entered into this ____ day of November, 1974 at Danville, Indiana; by and between The Board of Commissioners of Hendricks County, Indiana and The Hendricks County Historical Society, Inc.

WHEREAS, Hendricks County Indiana owns a certain tract of real estate located at 140 South Washington Street, Danville, Indiana formerly used by Hendricks County as a Jail and;

WHEREAS, The Hendricks County Historical Society, Inc. an Indiana not-for-profit Corporation, desires to operate and manage a "Hendricks County Museum" on said property and;

WHEREAS, both parties recognize the need for the establishment of a museum in which historical artifacts, materials and information may be kept and the need for an organization to collect said materials, preserve them, store them and to display them to the general public, and;

WHEREAS, the County Commissioners are granted certain powers under the laws of the State of Indiana, over unused county buildings, and;

WHEREAS, the aforesaid property is, in and of itself, of historical value and;

WHEREAS, Hendricks County Indiana does not have a present need for all the space therein;

NOW THEREFORE come the parties and agree as follows:

1. Hendricks County, Indiana, by its Board of County Commissioners agrees to dedicate that portion of the aforementioned real estate consisting of the old residence and excluding all jail cells and the new addition, which is now occupied by the Hendricks County Welfare, for the establishment of a "Hendricks County Museum" for so long as said premises are not needed for the use of Courts or County Officers or other County business; or until terminated as hereinafter provided. And further agree to furnish the utilities therefore, Insure the Building,

2. The Hendricks County Historical Society, Inc. agrees to make the operation and management of said museum one of their major projects; and, further agrees to:

- A. Collect acceptable historical materials, and to arrange said materials so as to be displayed in an interesting manner to the residents of Hendricks County and other visitors. As to what is "acceptable historical materials", shall be determined solely by the "museum board" as hereinafter provided for in Paragraph 3.
- B. Provided personel to manage and to keep artifacts and historical materials.
- C. Plan programs which will interest persons who make gifts of historical materials with the assurance that said gifts shall be kept in good condition for future generations. Such a program may include meetings or exhibits or other activities planned by said corporation, with the approval of the "museum board".

- D. Provide space for the Hendricks County Veterans Service Officer, and to receive, preserve, store and to display at various times, all military artifacts now located in the Hendricks County Court House.
- E. To supervise and provide the meeting place for certain groups of Hendricks County citizens who have been approved by the "museum board" to hold meetings there, without charge, except janitorial fees. It being mutually agreed that any such meetings are to be held only during the regular museum hours or at such other times as can be mutually agreed subject to conditions imposed by the "museum board".

3. The parties further mutually agree, that for direct control of said museum, there shall be established a "Museum Board." Said board shall consist of the Hendricks County Commissioners, President of the Hendricks County Council, and the five officers of the Hendricks County Historical Society, Inc., along with one person from each township, appointed by the executive committee of the Hendricks County Historical Society, Inc.

Within thirty (30) days from the execution of this Agreement, the aforesaid executive committee of the Hendricks County Historical Society, Inc. shall create said board by notifying all of the persons holding the above offices, who will be a member of said board by virtue of their office, and shall appoint the township members from an alphabetical listing of the townships as follows: four (4) township members for a period of one (1) year; four (4) township members for a period of two (2) years; and four (4) township members for a period of three (3) years.

All township appointments shall expire on the 1st day of January of the second, third and fourth year respectively, following their appointment. Thereafter, as the terms expire, each appointment shall be for a term of three (3) years.

4. Within thirty (30) days after the appointment as aforesaid, the board shall meet and elect from its members, a president and vice-president and a secretary and treasurer. Said elections, shall be held thereafter, at the first regular meeting of each year of the board. At the organizational meeting, the members shall adopt by laws to govern the conduct of the "Museum Board" and the operation of the Hendricks County Museum, as shall be necessary to carry out their duties under the terms of this Agreement.

The board shall keep minutes of its meetings and other records of its actions; and, all minutes and records shall be kept in the Hendricks County Museum.

5. The Parties further mutually agree, that this agreement is cancelable by either party upon 1 year notice to the other.

H C H S

JUNIOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The November Bulletin of the Indiana Historical Society deals in its entirety with the activities of the Indiana Junior Historical Society. As we all know, our own Mike Lynch, of Brownsburg, served as president of that energetic organization and guided it through many and varied projects. His year's leadership was climaxed with the Thirty-Eighth Annual Convention held at Brownsburg.

In his report of that Convention, published in the Bulletin, Mike wrote: "This year, much to the delight of the officers and the staff, the Convention was larger than in recent years. There were approximately three hundred students representing

twenty-five statewide clubs. Every one of these students brought with them excitement and enthusiasm. With the contests, the exhibits, and the elections, there was also an air of competition. These three emotions rolled together produced one of the better conventions in recent years."

We are all proud of Mike's accomplishments and we wish him well at Purdue University. We are happy to note, also, that his sister, Linda Lynch, is following in her illustrious brother's footsteps. She was elected secretary of the Indiana Junior Historical Society and she also contributed an article to the Bulletin. In reporting on the Kentuckiana Officers Meeting, she wrote: "On Wednesday, August 7, state officers from the Kentucky Young Historian Association and the Indiana Junior Historical Society met at Spring Mill State Park for the annual two day meeting where the officers and directors present and exchange ideas and plan for the coming year."

Our love and best wishes go with these fine young people and our congratulations to their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Lynch, who produced such an unusual family. Mike has four sisters, one of whom is a graduate of Purdue University, two others along with Mike are attending Purdue, and Linda is a student at Brownsburg High School! And we are proud to claim their mother, Darlene, as a member of our Society.

H C H S

Correction

A "goof" escaped the eyes of the proof reader in the October issue of our Bulletin. It was numbered Volume VII. It should have been Volume VI, Number IV. This issue is Volume VII, Number I. If you are keeping your bulletins in order, you will want to make that change.

H C H S

"HONORING OUR HERITAGE IN HENDRICKS"

Our tireless Ruth Pritchard has written, and will soon have published, a book entitled "Honoring Our Heritage in Hendricks". This well written, thoroughly researched work concerns the fourteen drawings which appear on the Hendricks County Ancestor-Descendant Certificate issued last year during the Sesquicentennial. In the foreword, Ruth writes, "This book presents the fourteen drawings which appear on the Hendricks County Ancestor-Descendant Certificate issued during 1974, the county's sesquicentennial year."

"The several drawings are representative of Hendricks County and its various aspects of home, church, school, government, travel, industry, business, occupation- and even tragedy and adversity".

"These outlines are indicative of the three settlement periods: pioneer up to and including 1830; the anti-slavery, 1831-1860; and the development period, 1861-1900. The sketches include something from each of the twelve townships."

The book is being printed by the Publication Department of Cascade High School under the direction of Mr. Don Whitehead. Ruth hopes the book will be out by the last of January, and if you are interested, you can give her a call 539-6890. It is a must for those of us who are proud owners of certificates and for anyone we may have given them to, and it will be a valuable addition to your sesquicentennial material.

H C H S

ANOTHER NORTH SALEM "OLD BRICK"

This "Old Brick" is located on South Broadway, North Salem, Indiana.

It has been there a long time, since the early 1880's, or thereabouts. Time was when it was a creamery, which was a common way of making a living then. When the creamery was started, it was a large wooden building, built by a group of North Salem residents whose names are now unknown. I was told that if anyone knew its story it would be Ed Hadley, who at that time was 94 years old, but who had a memory as sharp as a knife. One Thursday he talked to me and I wrote it down as accurately as I could.

The original wooden building caught fire and burned to the ground. The fire was so intense that trees standing yet to day show the scars. It was rebuilt of brick and the creamery started again.

Elmer Duncan, (brother-in-law of Ed Hadley) and father of the late Glenn Duncan, had charge of it. A brick ice house was attached to the south side and is still standing.

They made a world of butter and sold it to all the surrounding towns. They had a good business and hired a good crew of workmen.

Then Elmer Duncan, the owner and manager, lost his health. He decided to go to Boulder, Colorado. While convalescing he met and became a friend of a workman of Swedish descent, Nels Nelson, who knew all about the creamery business as well as cheese making. When Duncan came home Nelson accompanied him. They started a "cheese factory" and made good from the start. Then James Hadley (Ed Hadley's father) began to operate the cheese factory. James Southwick was the cheese maker and the brick building was used to its capacity. Ed was only 14 or 15 years old at this time yet he remembered the recipe which was two ounces of rennet and one ounce of coloring to 1,000 ounces of milk.

James Hadley bought a pair of black ponies. They wore bells on their harness. They were hitched to a special wagon which became a common sight on all the highways. The drivers went to all the surrounding towns, south to Greencastle and as far west as Marshall and Walter Wynn did most of the driving. Omer Soots, uncle of Victor Carpenter and a teen age lad of 14 or 15 years, worked in the factory taking care of the machinery. After a few years the cheese industry began to dwindle and sales slackened.

Then around 1910 George Davis of North Salem had a grain store there and specialized in buying and selling clover seed. He stayed in this business a short time.

As time grew apace and the automobile became common, Elmer Duncan's son, Glenn, learned the rudiments and the repairing of anything that used wheels. He started a "wheel factory" in the building. He invented, constructed and patented a wheel that made it impossible for a car to be stolen. Quite a few Eel River Township men were interested in the wheel project. But it was not profitable and therefore failed.

Then Glenn Duncan and Ken Smith, life-long friends started a garage and repair shop in which they were partners for several years.

After a period of time the "Old Brick" was rented for various purposes. It is now owned by Don Barnhart and houses his construction machinery, and it has the appearance of many more years of service.

Zona Walker

H C H S

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

The author of the following poem is unknown, but for miles around the Salem Church community the poem was inseparably associated with Howard C. Rushton.

In his way, Howard Rushton was quite an entertainer, unassuming and dependable. From the early 1900's through the depression years and World War II he contributed to "the lighter side". A successful farmer, a staunch Methodist, an honorable citizen, he ranked high among his many friends. Such readings were common in the period of Literary Societies and, to some extent, in oratorical contests. This example might rate mention in the history of entertainment in the county.

(Contributed by Ruth Pritchard)

"OLD BILL SNYDER"

You see that red-haired feller
a sittin' over yonder,
With freckled face and turned-up nose
and only one suspender?
You'd think to look at him he'd be
mighty meek and mild,
But he's tougher than any cow-boy
and twenty times as wild.

One night I took him with me
way down into the cellar
To draw a jug of cider and
get some apples meller.
He pulled the plug from out the barrell
while I held up the jug.
The precious cider gurgled forth,
Kerchug, kerchug, kerchug.

Now when we got about as much
as any man could lug,
That boy looked kind of scared and said,
"Say, Pop, I've lost the plug.
Now if you want to keep your cider,
just put your thumb right in it.
I'll go get another plug
I'll only be a minute".

Well there I stood for more than an hour,
a holdin' in that cider.
I cussed that kid 'till the air was blue
as sure as my name's Bill Snyder.
At last I had to give it up,
For I had got my fill.
I pulled my thumb from out that hole,
And let the cider spill.

You should have seen that mess
All over that cellar floor.
Samantha Ann, she mopped and swabbed
A couple of days or more.
You bet I licked that kid
'Till he was black and blue,
Cause I knowed he was playin' tricks
And I guess he knowed it, too.

See that there thumb, looks as if 'twere dead
as white as this here ceilin'.
I could stick a knife right through it;
'Taint got a bit of feelin'.
There's many a trick been played before
On honest old Bill Snyder,
But I never had a thumb before,
Get paralyzed on cider.

H C H S

From one of Edward A. Leary's interesting columns in "The Indianapolis Star" last year, we "snitched" a few little tid-bits:

Custom: In early days when a wedding notice was delivered to the local newspaper editor, it was accompanied by a handsomely decorated cake for the staff to enjoy.

Bad Luck: It was considered bad luck in pioneer days to start a journey on Friday or to pay a bill on Monday. It was also considered bad luck to turn back from a journey unless for a funeral.

Greeting: A favorite pioneer greeting was, "Come in and set. You kin have as good as we got."

Death: Burglar proof caskets were a best seller in the early 1900's following the capture in Indianapolis of a gang who robbed graves and sold corpses to medical schools. Whenever such ghoulish-proof coffins were used, it was duly noted in newspaper obituaries, presumably to warn off other grave robbers.

Weather: The year of Indiana's statehood, 1816, is often called the year without a summer. Indiana suffered several frosts in May and June, July was cold and frosty and in northern Indiana, the corn crop was killed five times. For changeable weather, Jasper County set some kind of a record in 1836, recording temperatures of 116 degrees in July and two weeks later reporting a chilling frost in the northern part of the county.

Scandal and Recession: Fifty years ago, 1924, Hoosiers were reading about the Teapot Dome scandals and the nation was undergoing a sharp, but brief depression.

More of Same: Fifty years before that, 1874, Hoosiers still were recovering from the shock of the Credit Mobilier scandal and the near impeachment of Vice-President Schuyler Colfax of Indiana, when they read of the conviction of Democratic "Boss" Tweed, and tightened their belts for five years of a secondary post-war depression.

H C H S

H C H S

We welcome the following new members: Elizabeth Warrick, Brownsburg; Leon D. Pritchard, Cincinnati; Paul W. Swisher, Mooresville, and Charles Weilhamer, Danville.

H C H S

HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
INCOMES & DISBURSEMENTS

October 1, 1973 - September 30, 1974

RECEIPTS:

Sesqui Merchandise		\$ 54 00
Book Sales	\$ 3 929 00	
Costs	<u>3 031 50</u>	897 50
Dues		706 00
Bulletins		47 25
Stationery		17 25
Interest Income		<u>63 50</u>
TOTAL		\$ 1 785 50

DISBURSEMENTS:

Postage	\$ 167 94	
Meeting Expenses	20 00	
Office Supplies	24 76	
Cost of Bulletins	<u>571 47</u>	
		<u>\$ 784 17</u>

Increase in Net Worth \$ 1 001 33

Cash in Bank 10/1/73	\$ 503 96
Certificate of Deposit	<u>1 088 76</u>
Net Worth 10/1/73	\$ 1 592 72
Increase in Net Worth	<u>1 001 33</u>

Net Worth 9/30/74 \$ 2 594 05

Cash in Bank 9/30/74	\$ 841 79
Inventory of books Paid for	600 00
Certificate of Deposit	<u>1 152 26</u>

NET WORTH 9/30/74 \$ 2 594 05

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