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HENDRICKS COUNTY

HISTORY BULLETIN



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THE HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
DANVILLE, INDIANA

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ORGANIZED 1967

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Hendricks County Hist. Museum
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Open Tues & Sat 1 - 4 P.M.
For further information call
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"I've learned in my work that the values of society are derived from its connectedness to history. If history dies, we lose our sense of the past being alive."

Bill Moyers, journalist and commentator for CBS News

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GREETINGS FROM OUR VICE PRESIDENT

We are in the midst of our 20th anniversary and it is time to give ourselves a quiet round of applause. We've had a very successful "beginning" with the publication of a county history, reproduction of other county-related items, sponsorship of an outstanding museum, and the quarterly production of Bulletins and programs that could be the envy of almost any other historical society.

Our members should take a great deal of satisfaction in knowing that we have had an effect on Hendricks county as evidenced by our excellent book sales and growing membership. The Museum is being utilized by our area schools and children and adults alike are developing an appreciation of the past. We are all responsible for the increased awareness of our county's history among area residents.

Yes, we've had a great beginning! But there are countless generations to follow and we must strive to benefit them all. The passage of time just makes our work more difficult so your ideas and continued efforts are needed today! Let's prepare to provide another 20 years of devoted service to Hendricks county!

Libbe

FEBRUARY MEETING

A fine group (approximately 55) gathered Feb. 1 in the Circuit Court Room of the Hendricks County Court House. After the usual preliminaries, reports and remarks, Libbe Hughes, program chairman, presented Judge Jeffrey Boles, who gave us an interesting update on the historic mural which hangs in the Court Room. Judge Boles, at an earlier meeting, had told us about the painting but since that time, he has learned much more about the painter, Edgar Alwin Payne when Mr. Payne's daughter visited Danville last summer. Since the painting has to do with the Northwest Territory and George Rogers Clark, Judge Boles gave us quite a history lesson.

After a lively question and answer period, the group adjourned to the Jury Room where they enjoyed a beautiful birthday cake marking our Society's 20th year.

May 3, 1987

Our May meeting promises to be an exciting departure from our usual meetings when we go to the ROYAL PICTURESHOW AND PLAYHOUSE in Danville (no admission charged) to see a pageant written and produced by Mary Ann Moore. A DAY IN THE LIFE OF THE SHERIFF AND HIS WIFE 100 YEARS AGO, the lengthy title, gives us good hints about the subject of the program. Who was the sheriff in 1887? Ira Chase or William Ayres? Which one was a well known local minister who kept a journal? How many prisoners did the jail have during 1887? To get the answers to these questions and learn the story of a would-be murderer, four young rascals and two pretty teen-agers, come to the show on the east side of the square in Danville, May 3rd at 2:00 p.m. Mr. Bob Keller, owner of the ROYAL, has been kind enough to lend us the use of the stage for the pageant.

MUSINGS AT THE MUSEUM

The museum had several visitors this past winter, school groups, clubs and individual visitors. Some of our visitors were from out of town, and we had one from London, England.

We have received a variety of items. We noticed a W.W.II army overcoat and an Eisenhower jacket. Those are remembered by many. A hand-made purse, and a large collection of hats were received. Those will complete many costumes for our models. We have a large engraved family Bible, we well as pamphlets and a big collection of almanacs from various companies ranging down through the years from 1876 to 1901. All these things tell how life was lived back then.

The flower bed is greeting the spring with tulips. The Hendricks County Garden Club will surprise us with some pretty annuals later on.

Jewell

HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS

QUERIES

STARBUCK, HARVEY and HUNT FAMILIES in late 1800's or earlier.

Mrs. Thurza McClintock, 959 Oregon Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94303 (415) 856-0469

JOHN V. HADLEY and wife MARY JANE HILL HADLEY, interested in viewing photographs of couple while JOHN V. served in 7th Ind. Vol. Inf. Any charges paid promptly. Paul M. Brammell, 912 Duxoury Ct., Michigan City, IN 46360

COLEMAN, LEVI 1870 census show he was 45 years old. Others listed Elizabeth, 23, keeping house; William H. (my line) 14 years old, and Ida, age 3 Mildred Uland, R 3, Box 194, Bloomfield, IN 47424

HEDGE, ANDERSON AND LEAH DODD HEDGE m. in Hendricks County 1846 At least one son had children and one daughter, who married a Ridpath, had children. Donna Dodd Black, 21632 E. Highbluff Rd., Diamond Bar, CA 91765

ROSS, JOHN S. and REBECCA Rebecca died 9-25-1882, buried Dickerson Cemetery. Their children: James, L. m. Malinda Arrington, Elizabeth Medaugh, Harriett Hedges, Mary m. Harrell ? and George VanWinkle. Daughter Rebecca m. John W. Cummings and Beach ? Mattie m. Robert Hollowell. John R. Ross, Box 154, Brockwell, Ark. 72517

THE NAMES OF THOSE WHO DID NOT RENEW THEIR MEMBERSHIPS THIS YEAR HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM OUR MAILING LIST. IF YOU DIDN'T RECEIVE A BULLETIN, CHECK WITH JEWELL TO SEE IF YOU ARE PAID UP.

NOTICE

CHEW FAMILY ... a newsletter concerning all branches of the CHEW surname and its allied lineage. Published quarterly \$15.00 yearly. Contact Frances Brengle, 6619 Pheasant Rd., Baltimore, MD 21220

THE FIRST HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

by Jewell Bell

Along about the close of World War I there were new values surfacing. The "Roaring Twenties" boisterously made their appearance. Among other things to appear at that time were the new ideas concerning lifestyles. Possessions held dear down through the years were no longer acceptable by the younger generation, as well as some of the older generation wanting to be modern. Nothing was acceptable unless it was brand new, the latest style, and bright and shiny. We'd hear: "But that's so old-fashioned!" "Out of style!" "What do you want to keep that for?" "Junk!!" "Be smart, modernize!" A lot of things were changing. Manners were becoming old hat, at least according to the older people.

Then came the Centennial! It was fitting and proper to celebrate the one hundredth birthday of our county and community leaders began to do something about it. In their search for memorabilia, they found many people who exhibited their treasures proudly.

We came across this item taken from the "Danville Gazette", in the November 6, 1924 edition:

"On the evening of November 11, at 7:00, there will be held in the assembly room of the court house a meeting for the purpose of organizing a Hendricks County Historical Association. Dr. Coleman, director of the Indiana Historical Commission, will be present to explain the matter.

"Hendricks County should have such an organization. The majority of the counties in the state are already organized."

"All persons proud of the splended historical past of the county, of its present standing, and of the preservation of this record should attend this organization meeting. The meeting is open to the public."

These are the minutes of the first meeting as they were written:

"The organization meeting of the Hendricks County Historical Society was held in the Assembly Room of the Court House on the evening of November 11th. 1924. Dr. Christopher B. Coleman, Director of the Indiana Historical Commission, was present and explained the matter of organizing county societies. He explained the fine work being done by similar organizations over the state and pointed out the need of such an organization in Hendricks County. After Mr. Coleman's talk the following officers were elected to serve for one year:

Thad S. Adams, president
George H. Reitzel, first vice-president.
Mrs. Julian D. Hote, second vice-president.
Fred E. Brengle, secretary-treasurer.

Mr. Adams then took the chair and proceeded with the matter of perfecting the organization. A tentative constitution was read by Mr. Brengle to which several objections were made. On motion of Mr. Gulley, the President appointed a committee of three, consisting of Mr. Hogate, Mr. Gulley and Mr. Brengle to prepare a constitution to be presented at the next meeting of the society. On motion of Mr. Hogate, the date of the next meeting was set for the evening of Dec. 9, (Tuesday) 1924. The matter of building up the membership was then taken up.

The county was divided among certain persons:

Mrs. Osborn was given Washington and Guilford Townships.

Mrs. Julian D. Hogate was given Liberty.

Roscoe Leak, Union and Middle.

O. E. Gulley, Eel River.

Mrs. F. H. Ryner, Marion.

George H. Reitzel, Lincoln and Brown.

Mrs. Ella Hadley Gambold, Clay.,

Mrs. Charles Robards, Franklin.

Mr. Adams, Center.

The meeting then adjourned. Thad S. Adams, pres., Fred E. Brengle, Sec'y."

The following are excerpts of the minutes down through the years:

Tuesday, Dec. 9, 1924

The president asked for a report on the Constitution but the chairman said nothing had been done.

Reports from township leaders indicated that the people they had talked with liked the idea. Several of the committee were absent.

There was a demand for a museum room growing out of the county centennial celebration. A motion was made to contact the county commissioners to get them to set aside a room for a museum. A committee was appointed. A motion carried to make the annual dues \$1.

A motion carried to leave the charter memberships open until the second Tuesday in April.

The group discussed subjects to be used for future programs.

Tuesday, Feb. 10, 1925

The museum room committee had seen the commissioners and they seemed favorable to the idea and they would look into it.

A paper, "The First Ten Years' History of Hendricks County", brought comments from a few saying that they knew or knew of some of the people mentioned.

Tuesday, Apr. 17, 1925

The Constitution was not ready yet. The museum committee was not ready to make a report.

Mrs. Julian Hogate read a paper on the early history of the churches in the county exclusive of the Friends. Mrs. A. J. Wilson read a paper on the early history of the Friends Church in the county. Two very capable speakers!

As we read in the minutes during the society's entire span, papers concerning families, churches, schools, roads, etc., were prepared but were usually read by a person other than the preparer.

At the June 1926 meeting they chose this slate of officers: Pres. Mr. Roscoe Leak; V. Pres. Mrs. A. J. Wilson; Sec'y-Treas. Mrs. W. T. Lawson. (here we notice that only one vice president was elected.) The program committee consisted of: Mrs. A. J. Wilson, Mrs. E. M. Blessing, Miss Ruth Adams, Mrs. O. T. Scamahorn, and Mr. Hogate. The museum committee consisted of: Mr. Thad Adams, Chairman, Miss Sadie Cook, Sec'y., Dr. Trotter, Mr. Lannes McPhetridge, Mrs. Spangler, Mrs. Oren Osborn, Mrs. Scamahorn, Mrs. Will Evans, Mrs. Charles Shields, Dr. Ragan, Mr. C. M. Hobbs, and Mr. James C. Morgan.

Before we proceed with the review of the minutes, let's read the clipping taken from "The Republican" Nov. 13, 1924.

"Some such organization was forecast when the court house was built, as a historical room was built and has since been awaiting use. While Hendricks County, because of its geography, was out of the line of many of the great early movements in relation to the Indians and foreign countries, there is no lack of material on which to work.

When and under what circumstance did the Indians pass title to the land in the county?

Under what, if any, foreign flags has the territory of Hendricks county been governed?

Were there ever any underground railroad routes through Hendricks county?

What is the story of the National road through the county?

What of the trail that led to the land office at Crawfordsville?

There are many other subjects for valuable papers that should be written and preserved. To have these things done is the mission of a historical society. It is a labor of local patriotism. The work will be of increasing value through the years."

A letter from Mr. Hogate told that the commissioners had given the northwest room on the third floor of the court house for the museum. The society's next meeting on Aug. 16, 1926 was held in the museum, as were the rest of the meetings. At a later meeting it was discussed that no one else should be allowed to hold meetings in the museum.

Thad Adams was appointed custodian, and later named curator of the museum.

Again they appealed to the commissioners for a name-plate for the museum door like all the others of the court house had. A later meeting revealed that the commissioners consented to obtain a name plate for the door.

There was an account that the last known minutes recorded were September 13, 1928.

"McGUFFEY NIGHT AT HISTORICAL WEST"

"Turning back the clock some fifty or sixty years was the miracle performed at the meeting of the County Historical Society, Tuesday evening, in the club room at the court house. Memories of days long ago were stirred. The old readers used in schools by some and read by probably all present in their younger days that had almost been forgotten. It was McGuffey night and the most was made of it.

Allen J. Wilson, president, presided and there were much fun and pathos as the program was given.

The exercise started with Miss Daisy Howell singing "School Days", the audience joining in the chorus. Miss Howell was accompanied by Mrs. W. T. Lawson on the zither. During the song, six "school girls" garbed as in the olden days entered the room--Mrs. Walter Eastes, Mrs. O. E. Nichols, Miss Sadie Cook, Mrs. Anna Edwards, Miss Lizzie Anderson and Mrs. A. J. Wilson filed in and took seats.

Roscoe Leak, of Union township gave a comprehensive sketch of the life of William H. McGuffey. Miss Martha Scarce told of the "Humor and Pathos of McGuffey Readers", showing how the sad and pathetic were dominant notes in the selections. Her explanation was that in those days people thought more of serious things, of life and death and the problems of existence.

James W. Beck recited "The Young Soldier," and admitted that the first time he had recited it was at school in 1859. Miss Eva Harper, of Union township, gave the ever-popular "The Spider and the Fly".

Miss Shiela Smith, accompanied by her mother on the piano, very prettily sang "Tittle Tattle Tell-tale", and then Thad S. Adams conducted a lesson in Metaphysics, with Miss Daisy Howell.

Miss Nellie Storm recited another old favorite which has come down to this generation, "The Boy Stood on the Burning Deck," Then followed a typical reading class composed of the six ladies who had entered in a body. This was just about true to life, older visitors said. The conclusion was an old-time Friday afternoon school program.

With Miss Pearl Hadley as leader the capitals were chanted, commencing "Augusta, Maine, on the Kennebec river." With John Airhart as the lad, he and J.S. Marshall gave the old favorite, "Alexander the Great." Mrs. Emma Tinder Flinn read another, "Genevra." Prof. N. E. Winfrey read that tongue twister, "How the Water Comes Down from Ladore." With the reading of "We Are Seven", by Julian D. Hogate, the formal program ended."

Such interest was aroused that there was strong sentiment for another McGuffey evening. A letter from John W. Cravens, registrar of Indiana university, told that a grandson of William B. McGuffey is on the faculty of the university. He is Prof. Hepburn, of the School of Law, and, "Mr. Cravens wrote, has many interesting stories of his grandfather.

On invitation from the Parke County society asking that the local organization name two delegates to confer over a joint session of the societies of the Fifth district resulted in the appointment of Roscoe Leak and Thad S. Adams as a committee. Adjournment was had to November 13."

The program just given was used as the minutes of the September meeting. Papers folded inside the secretary's book show notes for minutes never recorded. There were notes for minutes for Nov. 13, 1928, and Dec. 16, 1930. Another was Oct. 11, but no year given, and a decision to have next meeting on Nov. 29 but no year was mentioned.

No mention was ever made of completing the constitution.

According to the number given in the records, the first society had 14 charter members. They include: Thad S. Adams, Danville, Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Blessing, Danville, Mr. and Mrs. Fred E. Brengle, Danville, Mr. O. E. Gulley, Danville, E. G. Hadley, Danville, Mr. and Mrs. Julian D. Hogate, Danville, Mr. Roscoe Leak, Lizton, Mrs. W. C. Osborn, Danville, Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Ryner, Coatesville, and Margaret L. Shuler, Indianapolis.

Members of the Society who came in later included: Mrs. Roscoe Leak, Lizton, Dr. C. M. Trotter, North Salem, Mrs. Grace Duckworth, North Salem, Albert Barlow, Plainfield, Granville Leach, Lizton, Dr. and Mrs. W. T. Lawson, Danville, Miss Vera Noland, North Salem, George Huber, Lizton, Charles Z. Cook, Danville, Ruth Adams, Danville, Mrs. M. C. Keeney, Danville, George H. Reitzel, Danville, Miss Eva Harper, Lizton, Mrs. H. C. Spangler, Lizton, Mr. C. W. Hobbs, Plainfield, Miss Martha Scarce, Danville, Mrs. A. J. Wilson, Danville, Mr. James Beck, Danville, Miss Lulu Huron, Danville, and Miss Elizabeth Anderson, Danville.

(Information taken from the Hendricks County Historical Society secretary book 1924 - 28 and also from the DANVILLE GAZETTE and the HENDRICKS COUNTY REPUBLICAN.)

Our present society reorganized in July 1967 and extended its charter membership to include the October 1967 meeting. According to the records, the society had 62 charter members. There are 27 with us today.

Charter members today include: Margaret Baker, Jewell Bell, Virginia Joseph, Dorothy Templin, Blanche Wean, Lucille and Owen Stamper, Leona Stuart and Maxwell Lee, Danville; Virginia Cummings, Margaret and Floyd Hufford, Brownsburg; Ondah Evans, Frances Fisher, Mary Jeanette Winkelmann, and Chester Parker, Pittsboro; John Gambold, Jr. Coatesville; Millie and Scott Hosier, Jay Small, Indianapolis; Carolyn Kellum, Ida Mae and John Miller, Plainfield; Ruth Pritchard, Clayton; Darlene Lynch, Monticello, formerly of Brownsburg; Helen and Howard Roth, formerly of Brownsburg.

Jewell Bell

BILL MOYERS SPEAKS

Speaking at Washington University, St. Louis, MO., Bill Moyers, journalist and commentator for CBS News, said, in part:

"As a journalist I'm engaged in a continuing course in adult education at somebody else's expense. And I've learned in my work that the values of a society are derived from its connectedness to history. If history dies, we lose our sense of the past being alive.

"But you learn when you look back that although there is trouble in the world, there is also honor. And people of conscience, and moments of such great beauty and vision that they transcend the struggle. And you learn that nothing you are

likely to face in your generation, not even the existence of nuclear weapons, requires more courage of you than was required of your parents and grandparents.

"When I finished my graduate study at the University of Edinburgh, my wife and I, thirty years ago, roamed through the ruins of many of the old churches of England and Scotland. There, beginning to peel on the side of the ruins of a church, was a little plaque that stopped me in my tracks like the onrush of a train. I wrote down what it said, and remember it to this day: 'In the year 1653, when all things sacred in the kingdom had been either profaned or demolished, this church was built by Sir Richard Shirley, whose singular duty it was to do the best of things in the worst of times.'" So may we all.

From the Washington University Magazine, August, 1986.

(Contributed by Lois Crayton)

LETTER FROM THE PAST

Mr. Enas Hadley, Plainfield, Ind.

March the 1864
Camp Glierson near Memphis, Tenn.

Mr. Hadley, I seat myself this morning to write you a few lines to inform you that I am well and harty and I hope these few lines may find you al well Well, Enas, we have been on a big raid down in Missipi since I wrote to you before I wrote to you before we left Cooliersville. we left there the 16th of January and got back the 20 of Febary and I havent Received any answer yet John and me sent \$60 Dollars to you and I want yo to write and tell me whether yo received it or not well Enas I can say that whe have binn in one fight Well Enas whe are living as hapy as _____ whe have _____ new tents and they are making out the pay rools whe will git the pay in a day or to and when I git i I _____ to Send it to yo and yo must write and tell me whether yo git it ot not Well I giss that I will close for this time Write Soon as yo git this leter from yore friend, Wm H Gay to Enas Hadley yo must still rite and direct yore leters to Co G Hndqrs of Meemphis

Give my best Respts to William and Hastings Hadley

W H Gay

(Contributed by Florence Collier)

DON'T THROW OUT THE 'JUNK'

The above is the title of an article appearing in the Feb. 10, 1987 issue of the INDIANAPOLIS NEWS written by Bonnie Harris, a NEWS editorial writer, who tells the story of Darlene Clark Hine, associate professor of history at Purdue University, and her collection of memorabilia concerning black women. Her final product is THE BLACK WOMEN IN THE MIDDLE WEST PROJECT: A COMPREHENSIVE RESOURCE GUIDE. I quote Bonnie Harris:

The guide tells its readers where to find the collected information about black women in Indiana and Illinois. It also records three accounts of oral history delivered at project workshops. One of those speakers was Cassie Swarn, a resident of Plainfield, Ind.

She told of her grandfather Swarn who had been a slave in North Carolina. He married a slave from the neighboring plantation, gained his freedom and moved to Plainfield. "The Quakers saw that he had a place to live. Shortly after he came there, his wife died and left him with seven children. He worked for 50 cents a day for other farmers and raised his children," she recalled.

Cassie married one of those children. "I found that to help my husband along and to keep our family steady I had to take any type of job I could get. . . So I just got around there and scrubbed the kitchens and cooked the food and served the parties . . . as I'd go out in the dining room to take the people's plates and to gather up the glasses and things -- they'd be talking and everything, especially the Women's Club, the oldest club in Plainfield, and the Friday Club, and all of these clubs you know, would have me come -- and I said to myself, 'Someday I'm going to be sitting out at this table and you are going to be helping to serve me.'"

Today, Cassie belongs to the Women's Club. She also is a painter and has been honored as Plainfield's Guiding Light and Most Distinguished Citizen. And her story is a written part of Indiana history.

Most of us know that Cassie is an active member of the Hendricks County Historical Society and has given us some fine programs.

