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HENDRICKS COUNTY

HISTORY BULLETIN



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THE HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DANVILLE, INDIANA

HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

ORGANIZED 1967

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"Civilization is a method of living, an attitude of equal respect for all men."

--Jane Addams

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Yipee! Hallelujah! Whoopee! And other expressions of joy and great excitement! Thanks to our County Commissioners, a long held dream of many members of the historical society is in the process of becoming a reality. If you have been in our museum in the past few months, you are aware that the space was not only full, it was overflowing! We had items on exhibit everywhere-including the bathroom. Things were put wherever there was any space and many times were so crowded that it was impossible to see them let alone enjoy and learn from them.

The museum occupies the former Sheriff's residence and the jail cells on South Washington Street in Danville. The adjacent space that had been offices was used by the county to house the Probation Department. When the Probation Department moved to other quarters, the Commissioners gave us permission to expand into that area. It is great to have some room to plan exhibits and Dorothy Kelley and her volunteers will make this an area to be proud of. We all owe the Commissioners a big 'Thank You' so when you see J. D. Clampitt, Hursel Disney, or Rick Myers be sure to tell them how much we appreciate their help. It is a great advantage to have people in office in this county who care about and support historic preservation.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the May meeting when our Vice President, Betty Bartley, will present a program on cemeteries and how we can learn about history by walking through them. We will also present awards to the elementary students who won our essay contest. We were very pleased with the quality of the entries and the choice of subject matter. As well as some of the more obvious topics like the Van Buren Elm and the Lizton Cholera epidemic, the students chose things that were of personal interest to them such as the history of their particular school. We hope to make this contest an annual event.

All of the Hendricks County flags have now been sold! Sales of the 'Landmark' book continue to be steady and I again urge you to look at this book and our other publications at the sales table before the meeting.

We are sharing some of our recently acquired space in the annex area at the museum with the Hendricks County Genealogical Society. They will have one of the offices and will store their research and papers there. We hope to have some of their publications to sell also.

Judy

FEBRUARY MEETING

On February 4, 1990, approximately 45 members and friends attended the meeting of the Hendricks County Historical Society in the Circuit Court Room of the Hendricks County Courthouse. Judy Pingel, president, welcomed the group, and told something of our organization. She told of our most recent publication, "Hendricks County Interim Report". The secretary's report was read and approved as read. The treasurer's report was read and accepted. Dorothy Kelley gave the museum report. During Christmas Open House, 166 pupils from Danville South Elementary School visited. She told of the speaking engagements she had made. There was no old business.

New business: The Historical Society is sponsoring a Local History Essay Contest for elementary school students. Grand prizes will be awarded at the May 6 meeting of the society. Judy called attention to the blank in the back of the current bulletin for our consideration. "Sharing memories" was a subject that was hoped to bring many responses. A suggested subject was "County Tourney Time. What was it like?"; war memories---any war we knew about. Any memory would be acceptable. A meeting concerning the East Cemetery---the one by the Junior High campus in Danville would be held February 11, 1990 at Blanche Wean's home.

The meeting was turned over to vice-president Betty Bartley. She introduced Robert Boyd, principal of Danville South Elementary School. He introduced four Fourth Grade students, Tracy Bumgardner, Brad Allen, Travis Conley, and Mark Broviak. Mr. Boyd gave an account of their project they had been working on for some time. The students then demonstrated their new computer program on local history. It was a very informative afternoon. The meeting adjourned. Refreshments were waiting for us in the jury room.

Judy Pingel, pres.
Jewell Bell, sec'y

MAY MEETING

The next meeting of the Hendricks County Historical Society will be held on Sunday, May 6, 1990 at the Plainfield Public Library, 1120 Stafford Road. The meeting will begin promptly at 2:00 p.m. Following a short business meeting, HCHS Vice President Betty Bartley will present a program on the immense value of area cemeteries as research tools in local history. Betty is well-versed in the subject and it is certain to be an interesting meeting. Society publications will be available for purchase before and after the program.

MUSINGS FROM THE MUSEUM . . . MORE BASEMENT ROOMS

We saw the washroom last time, so we'll see what's on this desk over here against the wall. Here's an old cash register---still works. Here is some R.E.M.C. memorabilia and a Boy Scout bugle and a Boy Scout hat. Several visitors have tried the bugle with varying degrees of success. They have better luck with the automobile horns. Right beside the desk is an ironer. Permanent press just about put those items out of business. You will want to check out our churn exhibit. Two churns look more like miniature washing-machines, another takes a rocking motion to operate it. They all do the same thing---churn butter. Over here is a barrel-churn, this one is shaped like a barrel and is trimmed with fancy brass decoration.

There's a little room in the south-east corner a lot of folks wonder about. The sign "Please Knock" sharpens the curiosity so we'll look. Nothing jumped out and bit us so it must be safe. It is used for a storage space. We heard it had been used as a "dark room".

Let's go see the business machine room. As we enter we see shoe-making equipment, some shoes, all sizes. In the Southeast corner is a big spinning wheel and a spindle winder, and wool carder items. There are various size looms. A

quilting frame with a quilt in is ready for someone to stop and take a few stitches. Here is a very old church pew. The seat is not padded. It serves as a room divider. Over in the northeast corner of the room is the printing press taken from Central Normal College. It still works. In the northwest corner of the room we find several old typewriters. One may have easily been one of the first typewriters around here. That about does it for this room.

In the south room we will notice that the entire room is filled with record books. This is the Genealogy Room. Researchers often find a missing link here. The records go back to the county's early times. Up in the northwest corner perches a Mynah bird. It keeps track of things. It sees all, hears all, and says nothing. Quite a bird!

Jewell

IN THE WORKS

Teresa H. Pomeroy of Pomeroy of Purdue University Calumet is conducting a study of nineteenth century samplers of Indiana origin or American samplers that were brought to Indiana in the last century. She seeks answers to several questions including how many samplers have survived? Where are they located? Were different styles developed in different parts of Indiana? Working in connection with the Department of History and Political Science at Purdue University Calumet and Buckley Homestead Park of the Lake County Parks & Recreation Department, Ms. Pomeroy intends to develop a master guide to the design and location of Indiana samplers and to prepare a history of Hoosier samplers.

Any society members that have 19th century samplers in their possession and would like to be included in this state-wide research project can contact Ms. Pomeroy at Department of History, Purdue University Calumet, Hammond, Indiana 46323.

The National Grigsby Family Society will hold its fourth triennial reunion at Springfield, Illinois on July 12-15, 1990. The site will be the Ramada Renaissance Hotel, 701 E. Adams Street. A new chapter for the Midwest or North-Central States will be organized. For additional information and registration form, write or call Mrs. Margaret G. Mottley, Administrator, 10138 Valley Forge, Houston, Texas 77042, phone (713) 789-5766.

Frances Fisher would like very much to hear from her Hendricks County friends. A card or a short note would be greatly appreciated. Her address is: Frances Fisher, Carle Arbours Nursing Home, 302 Burwash, Savoy, Illinois 61874.

Have you paid your dues for 1990? If not, HCCHS Secretary Jewell Bell would love to hear from you. If you missed paying the \$5.00 annual dues in November, you can send them to Jewell along with your name and address to the Hendricks County Historical Society, PO Box 128, Danville, Indiana 46122 or see any of the society officers at the May meeting.

Dear Members of the Historical Society:

Recently I had the honor of doing a book review for the Indianapolis News on a book "Eli Lilly: A Life, 1885-1977." In going over the book I learned that Eli Lilly, the son, and his father J. K. Lilly married sisters, the Allison sisters. Bob Bales gave me a tour of the Lilly factory and I was able to meet Anita Martin, Eli Lilly's personal secretary at his death. Eli Lilly kept a "Shining Phrase Book" throughout the latter years of his life where he wrote down quotable remarks to support the views that he had. I saw Eli Lilly's actual handwriting and the book he kept and ran across a poem I thought the members of the Historical Society would like. Some of you may have seen this poem. I was impressed with it because I saw Eli Lilly's actual book. Here it is:

From the Inevitable America

Many many years ago when I was twenty-three,
I was married to a widow who was pretty as could be;
This widow had a grown up daughter who had hair of red,
My father fell in love with her and soon they too were wed.

This made my dad my son-in-law and changed my very life:
For my daughter was my mother, 'cause she was my father's wife.

To complicate the matters even though it brought me joy,
I soon became the father of a bouncing baby boy.

My little baby then became a brother-in-law to dad,
And so became my uncle though it made me very sad;
For if he was my uncle then that also made him brother,
Of the widow's grown-up daughter, who of course was my step-mother.

Father's wife had a son who kept them on the run,
And he became my grandchild, for he was my daughter's son;
My wife is now my mother's mother and it makes me blue,
Because although she is my wife, she's my grandmother too.

If my wife is my grandmother, then I'm her grandchild,
And everytime I think of it, it nearly drives me wild;

For now I have become the strangest case you ever saw -
As husband of my grandmother, I am my own grandpa.

I thought the Historical Society members would get a kick out of the poem knowing the context that Eli Lilly and his father had married sisters. Have a good Spring!

Jeffrey V. Boles
(Past HCHS President)

THE HORSE DOCTOR

Concluding the story of Dr. Thomas Edward Irons, D.V.M., written by Hendricks County resident Ben Jones. The first installment of this story appeared in the February 1990 BULLETIN.

One thing Doc wouldn't do, he wouldn't hurry nature. When a good cow or heifer showed signs of labor, I sometimes got nervous and called Doc. He'd come make an examination. Sometimes he'd say, "Too soon." If he had another call, he'd say, "I'll be back." If he had no calls waiting, sometimes we'd sit on a bale of sweet smelling alfalfa and talk. Doc was a firm believer that bright green alfalfa would eliminate a lot of dairy cow trouble.

I loved this 130 year old 60 x 60 A-shaped barn. It had a spacious hay mow, two rows of stanchions on the south side and a double row on the west side with a maternity stall and one row on the east side and a milk house. That left about a 15 x 15 foot feed room. On the east and south were windows, automatic air conditioner. That's one point I couldn't argue when Henrietta reminded me I took better care of my cows than her. It was in this feed room, sitting on hay or bedding bales, waiting for nature to take its course, that Doc told me a story that gave me the inspiration to write the story, The Silent Stranger. He didn't say which mountain state it was that had this little upland valley. It had a small cottonwood shaded river that ran its length. It was born of snow, high on its mountain peaks. Its west side was sheer rocky walls that reached the clouds. It had only one trail out that only mountain men and the Indians knew of. Its east side was a rim rock ridge with a switchback trail down to a little town that had no name, no school, no church, and no kids. It did have a lawyer/major, a banker, a little hotel and barn, a tavern and a dance hall, and a general store. These five men owned the town and made its laws, fixed prices and penalty with an old, worn out lawman (they thought they owned), an alcoholic doctor, and Milly, the dance hall girl who ran the restaurant and was now a Christian. These businessmen were all running from someone and a past sin. Their names were not their right ones. They cared not a bit if their business neighbor hanged, but they formed an unholy alliance to watch the switchback trail and move out every stranger that came down the switchback trail. Then, there rode down the trail a dusty trail worn man on a fine black horse, equally dirty and tired. He had two guns on his hips, tied down. His left arm hung by his left gun. The marshall asked, "Come far?"

"Yes."

"Will you stay over night?"

"Yes."

He asked, "Is there a doctor in town?"

"Yes, but he is on a four day drunk."

"Are you looking for someone?"

"Yes."

"Is there a place to eat?"

"Yes. Milly's."

The marshall reported to the big five, "I won't try to move him out. I think he is the law with a hidden star. That left arm by his left gun, I am sure, is a trick. I think when he rides out he'll take somebody, dead or alive."

Each one of the five was sure it was him he was after. The truth was he had a bullet in his shoulder and couldn't use his left arm. He was also left handed and had come in to have the bullet removed. Between the silent stranger, who had confided in Milly, the doctor, and a young preacher, they blackmailed the big five and got money to put the town on the map with a post office.

I wish I'd written The Silent Stranger before Doc died. I can just imagine him saying in a drawl, "You know it wasn't quite like that." I'm sure he'd have liked it.

"I'm quite sure that Doc is riding a fine Tennessee walking horse down the streets paved with gold.

Ben Jones

9/15/88

The Plainfield Public Library's Guilford Township Historical Collection welcomes donations of library materials which relate to Hendricks County's people and history.

One focus of the local history collection is the acquisition of works by Hendricks County authors.

Examples of such materials acquired during the past year are "Mark Hampton on Decorating" (the gift of Alice Hampton) and "Primary Care of the Posterior Segment" by Larry J. Alexander, O.D. Both Hampton and Alexander are graduates of Plainfield High School in the classes of 1958 and 1965, respectively.

A slim volume of poetry recently arrived at the library, the gift of its author, Sarah Lawson, daughter of the late Fern Hadley of Plainfield. Ms. Lawson sent the book, "Dutch Interiors," from her home in London. Her work has previously been published in an anthology and in various magazines.

A larger collection of Ms. Lawson's poetry was recently accepted for publication and she is currently translating a 16th century book, "The Notable History of Florida" from French to English. The book concerns French explorations in Florida and the West Indies in the 1560s.

Information about Hendricks County authors should be directed to Historical Librarian Susan Carter at 839-6602 or by mail in care of the Plainfield Public Library, 1120 Stafford Road, Plainfield, IN 46168.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Special thanks to HCHS President Judy Pingel for passing along the following information about the National Register application process.

The Hendricks County Historical Society and the Indiana Division of Historic Preservation sponsored a workshop Wednesday evening, March 14th, on listing in the National Register of Historic Places. This workshop was a continuation of the work done by the HCHS in connection with the publication of the Interim Report of the Inventory of Historic Sites and Structures of Hendricks County. The Sites and Structures Inventory report identified historic properties in the county that may qualify for listing on both the Indiana and National Register of Historic Places. The National Register is the nation's official list of structures (or certain select cultural attractions such as carousels, locomotives, and boats) that are worthy of preservation and recognition.

Mr. Paul Diebold and Mr. Frank Curtis of the State Historic Preservation Office of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources told what it means to the individual property owner to be included on the National Register and described the application process. As well as talking about what listing involves, they also stressed what it does not include. Several misconceptions about the National Register were discussed and it was emphasized that the Register listing does not mean that you must make private property available to the public. You do not have to give public tours of your home to be eligible for the list, nor does anyone from the government tell you what flowers to plant or what color to paint your bedroom. Listing on the Register does entitle you to technical assistance and expert advice on the restoration process if you want to take advantage of the service, but no one forces you to comply with their recommendations.

Listing on the National Register also provides protection for the structures from damage that would be caused by any project receiving federal funds. This does not mean that a home or building that is on the list cannot be torn down. It does mean that if the federal government is involved in the project in any way, the impact of the project on the listed property will be reviewed and preservation will be taken into account.

Mr. Bill Dory of the Historic Landmarks Foundation who conducted the survey of Hendricks County that initially identified potential National Register properties stressed that structures that are selected must basically look the same as they did when built. Both interior and exterior restoration and preservation are taken into account when selecting properties.

The listing recognizes structures that have local importance and help tell the story of the county's development. A property does not have to have belonged to someone of national prominence to be eligible, nor does any great event have to have happened there although those are two of the ways a property can qualify. Mount Vernon and Independence Hall in Philadelphia are obvious examples. The property can help to provide information to historians or archaeologists as to certain methods of construction that once were used or provide a location for artifacts. Round barns and Indian mounds are examples of this method of qualification. In Hendricks County, most of the properties that will qualify will fall within the architectural and design category. These structures are worthy of recognition because they are excellent examples of architectural style and because of their importance to the local community.

People who own buildings that were listed as either (O) outstanding or (N) notable in the recent survey and who wish further information on the National Register listing process can contact Judy Pingel (745-4127) or Betty Bartley (745-2828), representatives of the HCHS or call the Office of Historic Preservation located at 251 E. Ohio Street, Suite 880, Indianapolis 46204. Their phone number is (317) 232-1646. The Western Regional Office of Historic Landmarks Foundation, 14 S. Indiana Street, Greencastle, Indiana 46135, phone (317) 653-4927, will also answer questions about the National Register.

Any individual or organization may nominate a site for inclusion on the list. The nomination form requires a detailed architectural description of the property, current black & white photographs showing important details, and information on the property's significance. The entire process, including review at the state and national level, may take from nine months to one year before the application is either approved or denied. At the present time there are three properties in Hendricks County that are listed on the National Register. Nomination forms to place the Hendricks County Court House, the County Home, and an iron bridge on the Register have been started by the HCHS and the County Commissioners.

The Hendricks County Historical Society hopes that many people whose property might qualify for National Register status will take advantage of the opportunity to have their structures listed. A further meeting on this subject is planned for this summer.

As a 'survivor' of the long form for the 1990 census, I find the following contribution from Betty Bartley to be particularly amusing.

1890 CENSUS

As we embark on a new decade, we also enter the census year. The following items were taken from issues of the Hendricks County Republican concerning the census taken one hundred years ago, in 1890.

Census enumerators for 1890

C.H. Phillips, farmer, White Lick
Ellis M. Weaver, farmer, Pittsboro
Hiram T. Storm, farmer, Lizton
John D. Adair, druggist, North Salem
William H. Weller, farmer, New Winchester
John W. Ayers, coal dealer, Danville
John R. Van Note, insurance, Danville
David D. Mills, farmer and stock dealer, Bridgeport
Isaac A. Johnson, insurance, Plainfield
Samuel B. Stanley, farmer, Plainfield
Alfred W. Carter, farmer, Cartersburg
James I. Wills, surveyor, Clayton
Edmund P. Thompson, teacher, Amo
Augustus H. Breedon, merchant, Coatesville
Nathan Cook, saw mill, Brownsburg

Help the Census Enumerator

If a person is subject to enumeration, HIS HOME IS WHERE HE SLEEPS. There are twenty-four questions but if people who are absent from lodging places will leave the answers with some member of the family the work of the census enumerator will be aided very much. The answer to the other questions are such that any member of the family can answer them.

1. Christian name in full
Initial of middle name
Surname
2. Age at nearest birthday
3. Place of birth --- state or country
4. Place of birth of father --- state or country
5. Place of birth of mother --- state or country

The Census

The taking of the census proceeds merrily in spite of the objections. The rumor that some of the local enumerators are having trouble over the ages of the ladies is untrue. All the ladies are young --- some of them remarkably so.

One man estimates that his 40 hens produce 4,000 eggs in a year. His neighbor had eighty hens and was confident that he didn't obtain more than one hundred eggs. Investigation of this discrepancy might answer the question, "Does agriculture pay?"

One woman on being asked in what state she was born, replied: "Oshgosh". Another replied that she was born in Greencastle; didn't know what state. One concluded, "You fellows want to know this so you can fix our taxes".

Thus the enumerators grow old early.

Many thanks to Jewell Bell for sending along her reminiscences of war time rationing. Being used to an overabundance of almost everything in society, it is difficult for younger generations to imagine standing in line for anything or running out of a supply of such necessities as sugar and soap.

WAR TIME RATIONING

The day the Armistice was signed on November 11, 1918, we heard the fire-whistle. Mama and Papa went out to see if they could see anything. I can see them yet as they walked down the driveway looking toward Danville. Fire protection was for Danville only at that time. They thought it was peculiar because it was one long continuous blast and it kept on blowing. Papa wondered what was the matter with Ote! Well, Ote---Otis Harvey, who had charge of the water works in the park had, upon receiving the good news just tied the steam whistle open and let'er blow and blow it did! It was such a penetrating shriek! Church bells could be heard all around. It must have been bedlam in Danville for it was loud enough here and we're four miles out. Well, who cared, for it was such good news!

World War II came along and there was rationing. Stamps were used to portion the commodity. Probably the first thing that comes to mind was rationing of sugar. That was in 1942. I can't remember the amount we were allowed, but five pounds sounds about right. If we used up our quota, we just had to do without. People began to extend their sugar by using corn syrup, honey and for some things, saccharin. Stamps had to be presented for anything that was rationed. Gasoline stamps were issued according to proved need. An "A" stamp was issued for all who couldn't prove they were considered in essential work. I can't remember what a "B" card did call for but it would provide a little more than the "A" card would.

Whoever could prove he was in essential work like defence plant work, anything that had to do with sending any kind of material, food production, and other things not mentioned here. The phrase, "Is this trip necessary?" was on the sticker on the wind-shield. More than one sticker had the letter "S" pencilled in front of the word "trip". No more "fill er up" for awhile.

Tires were rationed too. New tires were "out" on account of rubber was being used in defence work. Production of automobiles came to a half to allow for wartime machinery. Tires were referred to as rags as some were more worn out than most were used to. Listen to this: Speed was reduced to thirty-five miles per hour! It was supposed to save on gasoline. That would be all right if one didn't drive a gas-hog. The motto then was to "use it up, make it do, or do without." If new stuff did come out in limited amounts, customers stood in line for a chance at it, or signed up to have a chance when the item they wanted showed up. Soaps and detergents were scarce too. We had to buy when they were available. Shoes were also rationed. One couldn't have any until the stamp came due. Those who were hard on shoes had a hard time getting enough.

Special thanks to Judy Pingel for her reminiscences of County Tourney time in Hendricks County.

MEMORIES OF THE COUNTY TOURNEY IN THE 1950's

The County Tourney was always held in Danville in the old CNC gym, which was the largest gymnasium in the county. We thought that gym was HUGE. (Now that same gymnasium is used by Danville's Junior High teams.) Once you got inside the door the excitement was unbelievable. It was so crowded with representatives of each of the schools in the county and their adult fans that there was activity everywhere. The place was a kaleidoscope of colors and the noise of the cheer blocks just bounced off the walls.

Being in a cheer block was serious business. Each cheering section felt they just had to yell louder than their opponent to prove that their team, school, and town were the best. You were in that cheer block to yell for the honor of your school, not to watch a basketball game. Only the men who were sitting way up high (I know where the expression 'hanging from the rafters' come from) had the luxury of watching the game.

The men up high didn't have it easy though. The radiators were up there and so were the windows. It was so funny. The radiators were always on to heat the gym for the boys in shorts on the court. That was logical. What wasn't logical was the placement of the old steam radiators. Heat rises. Why have the radiators at the top of the gym? By the time it was 75 degrees on the court it was at least 120 degrees on the top row. So the radiators were on and were too hot to touch, and the windows were wide open to let in the frigid outside air so that those on the top row didn't pass out from the heat. But by the time the game started, physical comfort was the farthest thing from the minds of these men.

If we in the cheerblock were concerned with the honor of our school, the adults up high were concerned with a larger issue: the honor and glory of an entire town. It was a matter of fierce pride to have a 'good' team. Boys of fifteen, sixteen, and seventeen years of age carried a lot of responsibility. The winning of the County Tourney was important to everyone in the community, and the fight for 'bragging rights' was taken seriously.

