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HENDRICKS COUNTY

HISTORY BULLETIN



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THE HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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H C H S

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H C H S

"I know of no way of judging the
future but by the past."

-- Patrick Henry

HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS
GREETINGS FROM OUR PRESIDENT!

Just one more meeting to go! This is not a sigh of relief, for this has been an enjoyable year for me. My committees have been wonderful. They can surely make things happen in a very nice way.

I overheard comments the other day about the wonderful way the Historical Society is preserving records for future generations. These remarks came from non members. It makes me feel good and proud to be a member of this organization.

I want to thank my officers, the committees, especially the Program Committee, and all members for their co-operation, making this a successful and pleasant year for us all.

Randall Joseph, president.

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AUGUST MEETING

A most enjoyable meeting was held August 12, at the Brownsburg High School cafeteria. The program was presented before the business meeting in order to accommodate the visiting entertainers.

MUSEUM REPORT

Mrs. Gloria Higgins, program chairman, introduced Mrs. Sparks of the Indianapolis Parks Department. She had brought from Indianapolis a group of older citizens whom she called the "Easy Agers". They presented a lively program of vocal solos, violin and mandolin solos and readings. Three couples square danced and danced the Virginia reel. Danny O'Donnell, a spry 98-year-old, sang and danced. We all sang with them GOD BLESS AMERICA.

It was an inspiring program. It started the old adrenalin flowing, and many of us decided maybe we aren't so old, after all!

During the business meeting, the usual matters were disposed of. Mrs. Scott Hosier, president of the Museum Board, gave a detailed report, which will appear in a separate article, Ruth Pritchard spoke briefly of the Salem Church Sesquicentennial and displayed a plate with a picture of the church which are on sale.

Ladies of Brown and Lincoln Townships served punch and cake during the social hour, thus ending another enjoyable meeting (and if you weren't there, shame on you!).

HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS

ANOTHER ONE COMING UP

The next meeting will be held November 4, at the Montclair Christian Church. Mr. Maynard Noland, chairman of the program for that meeting, promises a good assortment of entertainment appropriate for the month, with both patriotic and thanksgiving themes.

He believes in bringing back the display table (hurrah!) and he asks members to bring old campaign buttons, posters, pamphlets, pictures, license plates, advertisements and any memorabilia about old political campaigns. This can be a fascinating display, so let us all contribute something to it. I, for one, am glad to have the display table back.

The Rev. Gillespie, pastor of the Montclair Church, will give words of welcome and the invocation. This church may not be in existence much longer, which is tragic. The building is in excellent condition with padded pews and a new organ, so let's have a good turn out and maybe, at the same time, bring a little new life to the church.

Ladies of Union, Eel River and Middle Townships will furnish the refreshments and election of officers will be held.

So how do you get to Montclair Church?

The best way is to take State Road #39, from north or south, to 500 N. Turn west to 200 West. Turn North, approximately 1 mile, around a bend or two, and you will be there.

This will be our last meeting of the year..... let's make it the best one.

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MUSEUM REPORT

Mrs. Scott Hosier, president of the Museum Board, reports that flyers, telling about the museum, have been printed and will be distributed by Welcome Wagon hostesses through out Hendricks County to new comers. Many Indian artifacts have been received from Mr. Chick Relander, an old Hendricks County native. Thirty-five alumni from the Central Normal College - Canterbury College Reunion visited the museum and donated \$53.71.

Mrs. Hosier attended the A I N workshop at the Benjamin Harrison home in Indianapolis recently.

The museum had a booth at the September 8 and 9th Brownsburg BOFF Days, courtesy of the Hendricks County Bank and Trust Co. of Brownsburg. The museum had a delightful display in September and October at the Plainfield Public Library, described in a separate article.

Door chimes have been purchased and they will also act as burglar alarms.

As you can see, the museum is alive and well and thriving, but only because of the dedicated effort of some of our members who unselfishly give hours and hours of time and labor to the effort. If you would like to help in this most worth while endeavor, get in contact with Mrs. Hosier or Dorothy Kelley. Don't be content to sit back and "let George do it". Don't just watch life pass you by. Become involved... be a doer... it is fun and it pays rich dividends.

HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS

FROM THE COOKS IN AMARILLO, TEXAS

A nice letter from Susan Cook recently contained some good news and some bad news. The bad news was that her husband, Harold Cook, as we remember him, or "Cookie" as he was more casually called, had been very ill all summer, but the good news was that he is home after a long stay in the hospital, and recuperating very slowly.

Another bit of good news was that she sent along a number of memorabilia which she had dug out of boxes recently. They will be on their way to the Museum, but one of the most interesting was a beautifully preserved invitation to the dedication of the Hendricks County Court House in 1915.

They weren't pikers in 1915!!! They did it up in great style.

The first page, engraved in script, read thus: "THE CITIZENS OF HENDRICKS COUNTY EXTEND TO YOU A CORDIAL INVITATION TO BE PRESENT AT THE DEDICATION OF THE NEW HENDRICKS COUNTY COURT HOUSE AT DANVILLE, INDIANA WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER THE EIGHTH NINETEEN HUNDRED AND FIFTEEN."

The second page was a beautiful picture of the new Court House. The third page was a composite of the 1824, the 1826, the 1832 and the 1864 Court Houses.

The next page was the GENERAL PROGRAM

9:30 a.m.	Formal Opening of Building
10:30 a.m.	Automobile Parade
12:00 m.	Lunch
2:00 p.m.	Dedication Exercises

Judge John V. Hadley, Master of Ceremonies

ADDRESS ... VICE-PRESIDENT THOMAS R. MARSHALL

The next page gave a complete description of the building, including the architect, Clarence Martindale of Indianapolis, the contractors, P. H. McCormack & Co. of Columbus. The work was started under the former board consisting of James A. Downard, Elbert M. Murphy and Harry Sanders, county commissioners, and Edgar M. Blessing, county attorney, and completed under the present board.

The County Commissioners listed on the next page will be of interest to many old timers:

George W. Brill, Judge, L. A. Barnett, Prosecuting Attorney, Charles E. Edwards, Clerk, Lewis W. Borders, Auditor, George Macomber, Treasurer, John A. Flynn, Recorder, Theodore W. Garrison, Surveyor, Robert M. Shirley, Assessor, Dr. Bert M. O'Brien, Coroner.

Henry S. Cox, John P. Moran, Harry E. Sanders, Commissioners

Theodore T. Mahan, Supt. of Schools, Drennan R. Harvey, County Attorney, John Lindsey, Road Superintendent, A. W. Orr, Agricultural Agent, Dr. G. N. Wickwire, of U. S. Expirement Station.

The County Council consisted of (new members):
Joshua Tharp, John Vestal, Wm. H. Stephenson, Arthur Davis, Wm. H. Elrod,
W. E. Christie and John W. Ader.

(Old members): John Vestal, Charlie Kurtz, Tolliver Worrell, W. D.
Corrie, D. W. Carter, George R. Blake and Claude Boyde.

The Dedication Committee consisted of Judge Geo. W. Brill, Chairman,
Alvin Hall, Secretary, George W. Searce, Otis E. Gulley, Lewis W. Borders,
Horace G. Miles, George A. Keeney.

Thank you, Susie, for your contribution to our collections and best wishes
to you and "Cookie".

HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS

PLAINFIELD LIBRARY FEATURE

We are proud of Dorothy Kelley and her crew for the interesting and eye-
catching arrangement she placed in the Plainfield Public Library's Historical
Room last month.

Space will not allow us to describe all the fascinating arrangements she
prepared for the four cases the Plainfield Library provides. The county papers
have given it plenty of publicity, and if you missed it, you are the losers.

All these things can be seen at the Hendricks County Historical Museum,
right smack dab in the middle of Danville, (well, one block south). The Hendricks
County Historical Museum is almost a miracle when you consider how much they have
done with no financial help. Dorothy Kelley and her dedicated group of helpers
certainly deserve a vote of gratitude from all of us for what they have accomplished
almost on their own.

HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS

NOTES FROM THE PAST

THE REPUBLICAN, Oct. 17, 1929

"Just 51 years ago, Monday, the brick school house burned in Danville.
From its ruins was created the building which was later dedicated as the Mattie
A. Keeney building. This structure was recently razed upon the completion of
the present consolidated building."

"After a luncheon of oyster soup and "punkin" pie and trimmings, members of
the G. A. R., their families and guests repaired to the G. A. R. hall, Monday
afternoon, and were entertained by talks, recitations and speeches. At the dinner,
Mrs. Mary Harold returned thanks to God for His many blessings. Albert Kennedy
presided and James V. Cook was master of ceremonies. Mr. Kennedy made a most
excellent address and John W. Whyte read an original poem on the S. O. V. and also
recited "Old Glory." The exercises were in charge of the S. O. V. and the
Auxiliary."

HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS

THE VILLAGE THAT WAS

On our desk is a carefully researched paper by Dorothy Templin, great granddaughter of Silas Hardwick. The manuscript with the above title, is too long and detailed to print in full, but following is a brief, and I am afraid, not too complete, condensed version of it:

The village of Needmore used to be the center of activity in Marion Township. Quoting from an unsigned and undated theme paper in the Danville Public Library, "another town that is not now on the map was the town of Needmore, located about 6 miles northwest of Danville on the New Maysville Road. I am told by Thomas S. Dooley, who was reared in that community, that in 1861 and prior thereto, there were two big country stores, a grist mill, saw mill, wagon shop, blacksmith shops, gun shop and several other industries operating in full blast at the town of Needmore. All that is now left of that thriving village is an abandoned school house and a very tumbled down house."

The BUTCHER KNIFE, a newspaper published every Saturday morning in the town of Danville in the 1850's had local agents in most of the surrounding towns, Needmore included. William Bowman was authorized to receive and receipt for the BUTCHER KNIFE at Needmore. News items concerning the town included: May 2, 1857, the comet may be seen from the observatory at Needmore. May 23, 1857, Bowman is largely building in the above city. Upon raising his barn, about 40 rats paid the last debt ... death. June 27, 1857, There will be a picnic celebration at Needmore on Friday July 3d. The Sabbath School scholars and citizens of the county are respectively invited to attend. On that day the Declaration of Independence will be read by Jephtha Sears and orations delivered by Messers. Witherow and Martin. James Sheets, Marshall.

The school was the center of much activity. From newspapers of the past: HENDRICKS COUNTY UNION, March 15, 1871. Educational Column, A. J. Johnson, Julia Nichols - Editors. "Common Sense -- The Hope of Our Country", Needmore, February 28th, 1871. A joint exhibition was given here on the evening of the 25 inst., between a literary society of this place and a school taught here by L. C. Hardin. Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, the house was well filled by both old and young, eager to hear the eloquence of Young America. We found the room handsomely decorated with the nice pictures and evergreen. The exercises began with the declarations by Monroe Griggs. Monroe please select better pieces, study them well and speak as you did on this occasion and in some future day you will make your mark high as a speaker. This declaration was followed by quite a number of declarations, essays and dialogues, a few of which I will notice: An Essay -- SELF ESTEEM, by Catherine Hardwick, was well written and read beautifully. An Oration -- WHERE ARE WE DRIFTING? by L. C. Hardin was well gotten up but not so well delivered. A dialogue -- BOARDING SCHOOL, did very well if the ladies engaged had spoken louder. An Essay -- WHAT I LIKE, was good but too short. An oration -- OUR DESTINY, by L. M. Ensminger was well composed and beautifully delivered. A Declaration by Simeon Tinder, who should select better pieces, study them well and quit "gwine" on so much. Declaration - INDEPENDENT by Tyra Montgomery was well committed but spoken carelessly. Four little speakers that made such neat and pleasant appearances upon the stage: Squire Tinder, Flora Griggs, Emma and Lizza Dodson acquitted themselves in good style and if they continue to speak as well as they did in this exhibition, my word for it they will prosper. Can't the girls of Needmore and vicinity speak louder? Spectator.

The school District #1, Marion Township, closed last Tuesday week, after a term of 6 months. Mr. J. M. Kellams, teacher, is known to the educational men of this county as one of the best teachers in the ranks, and we do congratulate the patrons of Needmore in having secured the services of such an earnest and faithful teacher. Visitors began arriving quite early in the morning and by noon the house was filled to overflowing with friends and well wishers. Before dismissing the school for dinner, Mr. Kellems made a few remarks on the relative duties of the patrons and teachers, which were very appropriate and to the point. Then came the dinner. Needmore has a well-earned reputation of always having the best dinners of any district in the township, and right royally did she uphold her reputation this time. A table, nearly 50 feet long, was spread out in the yard, and was soon filled with the many good things that make Needmore so famous. First, the pupils marched up and took their position at the table, then the patrons and guests and it was variously estimated that between 100 and 150 ate to their heart's content. And if any one went away without being "full", it was their own fault. The audience then assembled in the house to listen to an excellent program given by the pupils. The last number -- "Music by the Needmore Orchestra" -- consisting of Schuyler Sears, A. W. Holcombe, Tidie Sears, M. J. Thomas and Joe Lindsay, brought down the house. The pupils seemed to appreciate the labors of their teacher in their behalf, and two of them -- A. W. Holcombe and Marshall Thomas -- graduated in the Common branches.

The land entered by Silas Hardwick in Section 35 in 1831 belonged to the family until 1939. At one time they maintained a brick kiln which is described in a family diary. They also made tile and their farm was ditched with the tile they made there.

From trustee records indications are that a new school house was built at Needmore in September, 1882, for \$995. It was brick and replaced a frame building which was sold to Warren Hardwick, a son of Silas Hardwick, for \$45 .. A letter, written by a daughter of Silas Hardwick on December 25, 1882 to a brother stated, "You have not paid your self for them school house brick." A notation in his dairy, date January 13, 1883, quotes, "after settling for Marion township brick."

HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS

IN REMEMBRANCE

Death again took its toll of our membership.

Helen Jones, wife of Gerald of North Salem, passed away August 3rd. Helen will be remembered by all of us who can attend meetings for her lovely smile, her musical talent at the piano or accordian, her beauty and grace to add a special touch to any gathering. Gerald, her bereaved husband, who always contributed a bit of spice and humor to our programs, is lonely, but we hope the concern and love of our membership will make his burden easier.

Edna Hand passed away recently. A school teacher for many years, her influence can never be measured, for the lessons and ideals of a good teacher are passed from one generation to another. Her family, including Gloria Higgins, have our sincere sympathy.

Both were faithful members of our Society, and we shall miss them.

This is a good time for me, your Editor, to thank the many, many members who called at the funeral home, wrote notes or sent cards or remembrances at the time of my great loss. Your love, concern, sympathy and thoughtfulness helped my family and me at the time, and will continue to strengthen us as we try to cope with the void which will always be in our lives.

At the risk of taking up too much space I must thank Blanche, Mary Jeannette and Frances Fisher, who, I think, were responsible for the insertion of the special page in the BULLETIN in remembrance of Rawleigh. Coming, as it did, at the time of his death, it was so fitting and so comforting, and I know Raleigh would have been deeply touched.

These words, written by Thomas Campbell, are a comfort to me, and I hope will comfort other bereaved families:

"TO LIVE IN THE HEARTS WE LEAVE BEHIND
IS NOT TO DIE."

HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS

Your Editor wishes sometimes that our BULLETIN could afford 50 pages in order to print all the great things that come to our attention. A case in point is a chart, prepared by Ruth Pritchard, listing all towns that have been in existence, at one time or another, since Hendricks County came into being. There is no way to approximate the number of hours she has spent on research, but with Ruth, it is a labor of love, and she enjoyed every minute of it.

She remarks about her labor: "This search for by-gone places impresses upon one the struggle to exist of our early settlers. They seem to come to life so vividly as you read about their many small, practically self-sustaining communities.

"The little trading places with their general stores, wagon shops, blacksmith shops, saw mills, lumber yards, brick yards, tile factories, schools and churches, began fading as transportation improved. Some disappeared completely, some have remained small and others are now large towns. Each served its time and place and rates some space on this chart."

All I can do here is to list the towns and the townships, and if you want more information, you will have to contact Ruth.

Amo - Clay	Georgetown - Franklin
Avon - Washington	Gibson - Liberty
Belleville - Liberty	Hadley - Clay
Bradshaw - Washington	Hardscrabble - Washington
Brayton - Brown	Hazelwood - Liberty
Brownsburg - Lincoln	Hillsboro - Liberty
Cartersburg - Liberty	Hobbs - Guilford
Center Valley - Liberty	Jacktown - Liberty
Chiseltown - Liberty	Joppa - Guilford
Cincinnati - Clay	Lizton - Union
Clayton - Liberty	Magnetic Springs - Liberty
Coatesville - Clay	Maplewood - Middle
Danville - Center	Messena - Franklin
Friendswood - Guilford	Montclair - Union
Gale - Center	Needmore - Marion

New Williamsburg - Marion
North Belleville - Liberty
North Salem - Eel River
Pecksburg - Clay
Pittsboro - Middle
Plainfield - Guilford
Rainstown - Union
Reno - Clay
Roundtown - Eel River
Six Points - Washington
Spicklepoint - Middle

Spray Station - Washington
Springtown - Clay
Stilesville - Franklin
Summit - Liberty
Tanglewood - Guilford
Tank - Center
Tilden - Lincoln
Tollgate - Washington
Tyrone - Lincoln
Union - Liberty
West Centerville - Eel River
North Mount Sterling - Union

Ruth has listed many fascinating facts about these old places ... name origins, present population, if still in existence etc. As I said, we need 50 pages!

HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS

A BIT OF THIS AND THAT

..... The Pittsboro Christian Church celebrated its 125th anniversary in October. Descendants of the church's 57 charter members came to Pittsboro from all over the state and even from more distant places, to attend the Great Harvest Homecoming Cooperative Dinner Sunday evening.

A week long celebration included the commemorative program which the Rev. James Shockley, who served the church from 1940 to 1953, attended with enthusiasm, only to have the members shocked to hear the next day, that he had died.

The ladies have produced many exquisite tapestries over the years, and they have recently completed a commemorative quilt.

The Pittsboro Christian Church is to be congratulated on their 125th.

..... Danville High School has been presented a plaque honoring Sam Thompson, a major league baseball player who was inducted into the Hall of Fame at Cooperstown, N. Y. in 1974. The plaque was presented to the school in memory of Mr. Sam Thompson by the Lawrence Thompson family of Shelbyville.

..... An article in the INDIANAPOLIS STAR, appeared August 12 titled WHAT'S PAST IS PROLOGUE. It was written by John R. McDowell, Editor of our HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORY.

It is a provocative article. I wish I could print it in full, for it might make us all think a bit more. But I felt it was worthy of mention.

HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS

1879

The Hendricks County Union (newspaper): September 4, 1879--The Basket Meeting--Editors, Union. In response to an article in last week's Union by David Cox of Cartersburg, inviting all the Christian Churches in the county to unite in holding a basket meeting at or near Danville some time in October, I am authorized to say in behalf of the church at Danville that we favor such a meeting believing that much good will result therefrom. In regard to holding the meeting at Danville, we have only to say that while we would be pleased to have the meeting here, we are entirely willing the churches outside of Danville shall select the time and place of holding the next meeting with the assurance that we will heartily co-operate with them to make the meeting both pleasant and profitable. J. L. McCoun. (Referring to an article in an August 28 paper, paper missing.)

The Union, September 18, 1879. The Christian Basket Meeting--Stilesville, Ind., Sept. 8, 1879. Dear Brother Cox; I see in the Union your call for a meeting of the Christian brotherhood of this county at some point which may be selected, and a response from the church at Danville suggesting sometime in October. I cordially favor your proposition. We ought to come together, get acquainted and cultivate the spirit of love and union and thus know more of our strength and weakness. Let us have it. I am corresponding with Brother O. A. Burgess for the 2d Lord's Day in October at Stilesville to dedicate our church and dont want you to have your meeting on that day. I think it will be fixed at that time. Will know this week. George W. Snoddy.

The Union, September 18, 1879. I am authorized by the Brethren at Clayton, to say that they endorse the call for a county meeting of the Christian brotherhood. Daniel Cox.

----- October, 1879 papers missing -----

The Union, September 2, 1880. The anniversary meeting of the Christian Churches of Hendricks County will be held on the 2nd Sunday in September, the 12th day, Elder L. H. Jameson will preach in the forenoon and Elder G. P. Peale in the afternoon. The Elders are requested to bring statistics of the churches and Sunday schools, showing their condition and standing up to the present. It will be a basket meeting, hence come prepared. Ample arrangements will be made for taking care of baskets and supplying water. If the weather is favorable, the meeting will be held in the Court House yard. J. H. McPhetridge, Chairman of Committee.

The Union, September 15, 1881. The Hendricks County Christian Church Union. The third annual co-operation meeting of the various congregations of the Christian Churches in this county convened in the church at Danville at 2 o'clock Saturday, September 10th. Brother Daniel Cox was made chairman pro tem. On motion of Rev. U. C. Brewer, it was decided to enter into permanent organization. Officers elected were President, John Rynerson; Secretary & Treasurer, Alex C. Hopkins. On motion it was decided that the Superintendent of the various schools of the county be made Vice Presidents of the association and that they, acting in conjunction with the President, Secretary & Treasurer constitute an Executive board.

----- 1882 papers missing -----

The Republican, August 30, 1883. Announcement--The Christian Churches of Hendricks County will hold its regular Annual Co-operative Meeting and Sunday School Conven-

tion on the 2nd Saturday and Sunday in September at North Salem. The day will be devoted to statistical reports and Sunday work generally. On Sunday the church will convene at 10:00 a.m. and listen to an address upon "The Future of the Church." The afternoon will be devoted to the reports of the number and condition of the congregation of the county, short addresses on the needs of the church work, election of officers, etc. It is most earnestly desired by the officers of this association that every congregation and Sunday school of the brotherhood in the county be represented. Let the Elders of the church and superintendent of Sunday school and officers make it their business to appoint delegates who will feel interested enough in the prosperity and progress of the church and schools, who will attend and be prepared to do something in the great conflict of Life, to move the world forward. I hope to meet many of the good brethren and sisters from over the county.

W. H. McPhetridge, Sec.

The Republican, September 13, 1883. -----At the close of the sermon, dinner was spread on the beautiful lawn in front of Dr. Adams' residence and the entire company partook of the hospitality of the Eel River citizens, which is equivalent to saying that they were elegantly entertained. Reports were heard from all churches and Saboth schools in the county except those of New Winchester, and New Hope. There are 11 churches and schools in the county. Officers reelected, President, Daniel Cox, Cartersburg; James Cox, Washington township, Treasurer; W. H. McPhetridge, Danville, Secretary. Next year's meeting will be the 2nd Saturday and Sunday in August at Clayton.

From County newspaper--The 8th Annual Meeting of the Christian Churches of Hendricks County will be held with the Lizton Christian Church beginning Friday night September 2, 1887. On the Lord's day there will be a basket meeting at Dugan's Grove, 1/2 mile south of Lizton. O. W. Hill, chairman; H. T. Storm, Secretary.

1979

One hundred years of Annual Meetings of the Christian Churches in Hendricks County will be celebrated November 11, 1979, from 1:30-6:30 p.m. at the North Salem Christian Church. Joe Wick, Senior Minister of First Christian Church, Lafayette, will be the afternoon speaker. Each church is invited to bring pictures of their church, early history, artifacts, etc. for display. Members of all Christian Churches in Hendricks County are welcome and encouraged to attend.

From Historic Sketches of Christian Churches in Hendricks County Indiana, in 1878 there were twelve Christian Churches in the county, and it is stated that ten of these twelve were "set in order" by Thomas Lockhart. Three of the twelve churches mentioned have ceased to exist. They are Belleville, New Hope (north of Pittsboro), and Quebec (south of Pittsboro.) The Coatesville Christian Church was organized in 1885 but closed in the early 1930's because of indifference and lack of funds. Then through the County organization they were able to open their doors again in 1946. The County Organization also organized the Avon Christian Church in 1964. The Scoville Revival was an enormous county wide program in which the churches all united in work and inspiration in 1931.

A "thank you" is extended to the Hendricks County Historical Society for changing their meeting date to avoid conflict with this special day.

Dorothy Templin