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HENDRICKS COUNTY

HISTORY BULLETIN



VOLUME XV NUMBER IV

NOVEMBER 1984
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THE HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
DANVILLE, INDIANA

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HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

ORGANIZED 1967

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Danville, IN 46122
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Guilford Twp. Historical Collection
1120 Stafford Road
Plainfield, IN 46168
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Tel. 839-6602

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The Hendricks County Historical Bulletin is published quarterly in February, May, August and November. It is distributed without charge to members of the Society and to Hendricks County School Libraries. Individual copies of \$2.00. Communications concerning back copies or individual copies should be addressed to our secretary. Contributions or suggestions to The Bulletin should be mailed to the editor.

Margaret Baker
(Mrs. C. Rawleigh Baker)
9 Round Hill Road
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Tel. 745-2115

"There is now an appetite for history - for all kinds of history - among American people that never existed before. We have at least three times as many historical societies as 40 years ago...Yet this has developed at the very time when educational bureaucracy - including professional historians - thoughtlessly allowed the elimination of history courses from our schools and colleges. They did not only go along with what seemed to be 'relevant'; they failed to see what was really going on."

Historian John Lukacs
U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT

FROM OUR PRESIDENT.....

Did anyone ever suggest to you, ever so tactfully, of course, that your enthusiasm for investigating the past would be better directed to the present and the future? Aren't there plenty of sticky questions regarding today's problems and tomorrow's prospects that urgently require our attention? Is our nostalgic fascination with tombstones, diaries, and primitive housekeeping devices possibly a kind of escapism?

That depends.....on whether and how we accept a responsibility such as that of voting. Just voting isn't enough. Voting for the right candidate, whoever that may be, isn't enough. It's the vote that comes from long, deliberate study of as much evidence as we can find, study focussed, not on the protection of our personal interests, but on what will be best for our country and the world, that demonstrates our worthiness of citizenship and its benefits.

Our study of history should be a part of our preparation for voting.

Lois Crayton

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AUGUST 5, 1984

We met August 5th at the Amo United Methodist Church. The meeting was opened with a silent tribute to those members and friends we have so recently lost: Clarence Bray, Pittsboro, Gerald Jones, North Salem, and Marion Bartley, Betty Jo Bartley's father.

Following reports from the secretary and treasurer, Dorothy Kelley spoke about the increasing interest in the Museum and the need to keep it open more. Consequently more docents are needed as well as more members of the Museum Board.

Three interesting speakers were introduced by Robert Carter, vice president. Dalta Hodson gave a detailed history of the 120 year old church. Betty Bartley presented excerpts from the Horace Greeley Masten Diary. Mr. Masten, 1860-1937, kept a day-by-day account of his life. He had meticulously recorded business transactions, weather, community activities and world affairs in great detail.

Ruth Fuson told about Ghost Towns of Clay Township. Hadley, situated on the rail road, boasted a church, a general store, broom factory, shoe factory and school house, but the church is the only public building left today. Springtown, north of Amo, was the site of the first election in the county, 1846. It had 2 blacksmith shops, a general store which, in 1837, was the largest in the county, a school house and a church. Pecksburg, on County Road 500 South, was a short distance east of Amo. They had a post office in 1852, discontinued ten years later, then reopened. They had a general store that offered a fine assortment of merchandise, as well as a dry goods store, blacksmith shop, millinery shop, two doctors, two churches and a grist mill. By their own standards, they had it "all". But as the schools in the Ghost Towns declined, so did the towns.

Following these talks, we enjoyed cookies and punch furnished by the ladies of Clay and Liberty Townships.

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NOVEMBER 4, 1984

It doesn't seem possible that November is upon us, but it is and our next meeting will be at the Brownsburg Public Library, according to Robert Carter, vice-president. During the business session, we will have a report from the Nominating Committee, Grace Cox, chairman, Randall Joseph and Susan Miller Carter.

Ruth Pritchard will speak on TOMBSTONE STORIES, a subject upon which we all know she is an authority. And for fun, Dorothy Kelley will put us through an old fashioned spelling bee. So don't miss it. It will be a good time to get out before the wintry blasts begin to head our way.

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PITTSBORO CELEBRATES

In case you haven't heard, Pittsboro pulled out all the stops for their Sesquicentennial Celebration in September. A great spirit of pride and enthusiasm of the entire community was very evident in their every endeavor.

As would be expected, many of our members were deeply involved and contributed greatly to the success of the celebration.

Frances Fisher was chairman of the History Committee. She wrote the beautiful pageant and helped direct it. She also over-saw the up-dating of the History of Pittsboro, a book, incidentally, that was sold out too early.

Frances was also Grand Marshall of the parade of 114 units. She rode in style in a fancy vintage Duesenberg. She later admitted that, although she had never ridden in such opulence, she had had more comfortable rides!

Mary Jeanette Winkelman was chairman of the Memory Lane Committee. The old Methodist Church building was transformed into a Memory Lane Museum, and one room at the school became an old fashioned school room.

Dr. Malcom Scamerhorn was the chairman of the Dignitaries Committee and served as M C at the opening ceremonies.

And heading up all this...the biggest job of all...were co-chairmen Tom and Linda Cowley.

Our congratulations to all of Pittsboro! You have really put Pittsboro on the map, and, from what I hear, you are planning to keep it there.

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MUSEUM MUSINGS

The Hendricks County Historical Museum was open both days of Swap and Shop with approximately 75 visitors. Swap and Shop is a street fair where individuals and organizations set up booths on three sides of the public square to display their wares. It is sponsored by the Danville J.C.'s. The weather didn't cooperate on Saturday, and the museum made a nice refuge.

The weather challenged the Hendricks County Garden Club and tried hard to undo all of Audrey Martin's patient work, but in the end she won out and the flower bed came through in blazing glory.

Among the articles the museum has received this summer is a long framed picture currently on the library table in the parlor. This picture, titled "Hendricks County Reunion--1911" was taken on the Central Normal College campus. It's interesting to note in the background the absence of the buildings as we know them today. The gym hadn't been built, neither had Hargrave Hall. The only building visible was the library, now long gone. The chapel was hidden behind the library. Some of the houses on Main Street are as we know them today.

Another item fading from view is the district one room school house. There's a picture of the old Mill Creek School House on the library table.

There are several pieces of W.W.I memorabilia which bring back memories for some, and are history for the others.

When we read magazines from the era of the early 1920's we can't help but notice the difference in the attitudes in the writing and in the ads. Seemed to take more words then. There are three copies of Christian Herald dating 1923-24-25.

There is a framed small firearms collection of days gone by.

There is a framed display of six kinds of barbed wire dated from the late 1800's. Each kind shows that it could tear just as many clothes and make one just as mad as the modern ones can.

There is a wooden ballot box with all the equipment, calendars, Central Normal programs, all of which will tell how we used to do things.

Older Brownsburg residents will remember hearing of Dr. Marsh, a long time physician there. We received five pictures of him and his family.

The mannequins have all donned their winter garb for the months ahead. They look so real that lots of people almost feel they need to speak to them.

Jewell

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We are grateful to Susan for preparing the following:

HISTORY OF HENDRICKS COUNTY, INDIANA

Sources for research

Libraries which have staffed local history and genealogy collections:
Danville Public Library, 101 South Indiana, Danville, IN 46122 (317) 745-2604.
Historical Librarian: Betty J. Bartley.

Plainfield Public Library, 1120 Stafford Road, Plainfield, IN 46168 (317) 839-6602.
Historical Librarian: Susan M. Carter.

Other area libraries which may be able to help with questions on Indiana and local history:

Clayton-Liberty Township Public Library (Faye Elmore) 539-2991*
Avon-Washington Twp. Public Library (Jessie Thomas) 272-4818**
Brownsburg Public Library (W. Pearson) 852-3167
Coatesville Public Library (Ruth Fuson) 386-2640

* = will answer phone or mail inquiries

Hendricks County Courthouse, 1 S. Jefferson St., Danville 46122, 745-9300.
Hours: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Clerk's Office - 745-9231
Recorder's Office - 745-9224
Health Department, Vital Records, 930 E. Main St., Danville, 745-9217 (Courthouse annex)

HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

Guilford Township Historical Society, c/o Plainfield Public Library, 1120 Stafford Road, Plainfield, IN 46168. Meets the fourth Thursday of October, January, March and May at the library. Also July picnic meeting. Dues: \$2.00 annually, payable in October.

Hendricks County Historical Society, P. O. Box 128, Danville, IN 46122. Meets the first Sunday of February, May, August, and November. Publishes a quarterly bulletin. Sponsors the Hendricks County History Museum, 170 S. Washington St., Danville. 745-2586. HCHS dues: \$3.00, payable in November.

AVAILABILITY OF HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORY BOOKS

The HCHS's 1976 publication, The History of Hendricks County, 1914-1976, is available for purchase from the society (address above) and is also for sale at the Danville and Plainfield libraries. Earlier history books are occasionally available for purchase from used book dealers. They may be consulted at the libraries which have historical sections.

* * *

A suggestion: To avoid disappointment, it is always a good idea to telephone in advance to set up an appointment and learn the hours open at individual libraries. If writing, enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for reply.

Prepared by Susan M. Carter, Hendricks County Historian 2/1984

SOME FACTS ON HENDRICKS COUNTY, INDIANA

The act of the state legislature which organized Hendricks County was approved on December 20, 1823, and the county took up official business on April 1, 1924. The name is in honor of William Hendricks, governor of Indiana (1822-1825) when the county was established.

The first settlers emigrated from North Carolina to this county about five years prior to the county's organization in 1824. They came to the area now called Liberty and Guilford townships.

The first settlement was made in the spring of 1820 on White Lick Creek, a few miles south of Plainfield. The immigrants were Bartholomew Ramsey, Samuel Herriman, Harris Bray, John W. Bryant, James Dunn, George Dunn and Ezekiel Moore. An historical marker commemorating the settlement is located on SR267 a short distance north of the Hendricks-Morgan County line.

In the spring months of 1821, Thomas Lockhart, Noah Kellum, and Felix Belzer made a settlement in the southeast corner of what is now Guilford Township, on the East fork of White Lick Creek.

William and Thomas Hinton, James Thompson, and Robert McCrackin settled on the West fork of White Lick Creek in what is now Liberty Township in the autumn of 1821.

The nine early townships in the county were Brown, Center, Eel River, Franklin, Guilford, Liberty, Marion, Union, and Washington. Later Middle (1833), Clay (1845) and Lincoln (1863) were added.

In 1824, when the county was organized, the population was about 800-1000 and was concentrated in the present townships of Guilford and Liberty.

A commission appointed by the state legislature selected Danville as the county seat because its location was near the geographical center of the county. It was chosen on July 12, 1824. The courthouse was completed and the first term of court held in Danville in April of 1826. The building was constructed of peeled hickory logs at a cost of \$147.00.

POPULATION OF HENDRICKS COUNTY

AREA

1830: 3,975	1910: 20,840
1840: 11,264	1920: 21,291
1850: 14,083	1930: 19,725
1860: 16,9588	1940: 20,151
1870: 20,277	1950: 24,594
1880: 22,981	1960: 40,896
1890: 21,498	1970: 53,974
1900: 21,292	1980: 69,804

420 square miles
268,000 acres

In 1868, a strip two miles wide and containing 20 sq. miles was added to Hendricks from Morgan County.

By Susan Carter

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NEWS FROM THE INDIANA ROOM

By Betty Jo Bartley

Danville Public Library

On October 8, 1984, Hendricks County Operation Service went into effect, making it possible for all citizens of the county to have access to the services of a public library, free of charge. Through a three-year grant received by the Danville Public Library, citizens of those townships not previously serviced by a library (Eel River, Union, Middle, Marion, and Franklin) can now register for a card at the Danville Public Library that can also be used at the libraries at Avon, Coatesville, Clayton, and Plainfield. Response to the program has been very good, and it is hoped that through this program, more people will become aware of the services provided by all of our county's libraries.

The index to the 1870 census of Hendricks County, begun by Libbe Hughes in March of this year, is now completed, and copies are available for use at the Danville and Plainfield libraries. This useful research tool contains over 2,700 names.

The Indiana Room has added a number of books on genealogical sources for Kentucky, North Carolina, Virginia, and Ohio, as well as new publications on Indiana. The new books include Indiana Territorial Pioneer Records 1801-1815, by Charles M. Franklin, and the Index to Indiana Source Books I, II, and III, published by the Indiana Historical Society.

DANVILLE'S CEMETERIES THAT NEVER WERE

Most genealogists have encountered "lost" cemeteries, ones that existed at one time but through neglect have become only a cross on an old map, or a story told by "old-timers". In 1895, Danville had not one, but two new cemeteries that existed only in the minds of some enterprising local citizens. Their locations are described in the following articles, taken from the Republican:

"A new cemetery for Danville is proposed. George W. Scearce has been talking the matter and he is meeting with considerable encouragement. It is proposed to buy a piece of land, organize a company, and turn the proceeds of the sale of lots into a fund to be used in keeping the cemetery up. This is the plan followed in other cities. A tract of land lying on the west side of the Lebanon road across from the McCoun farm is looked upon as a desirable piece. Quite a number have signified their willingness to purchase lots in the new cemetery and move their dead from the old ones. The impossibility of arranging any plan to have the cemeteries looked after, the scarcity of desirable lots, the lack of plan of the laying out of the grounds are used as objections to the two burying grounds now used. Mr. Scearce says there is quite a feeling for a new cemetery." (May 2, 1895 p7 c3)

"The scheme for a park and cemetery east of town has been proposed. The (L.M.) Campbell land is for sale and portions of it are well adapted for a park. It has been suggested that a road be laid off from the Rockville road at a point near the new site of the water station, thence south to the Campbell tract. West, in the edge of the hills would be a delightful park. On the east edge on the brow of the bluffs along the creek, a cemetery could be laid off." (June 6, 1895 p7 c3)

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We all know Ruth Pritchard never stops, and she has sent the following information to add to the article on Central Normal College which was published in the August BULLETIN.

She has also sent a complete list of the 291 subscribers who raised \$10,055.52 to build the Academy Building at the college, as well as the amount each subscriber gave. These names were included in the Corner Stone of the Danville Academy. She had copied the list from the records in the Archives at DePauw University. At the end of the list is this statement: "This is a full statement of the amount subscribed for the Building of the Danville Academy up to this date, August 14, 1860."

Signed: H. S. McCammack, Agent

On page 22 of the 1860 N.W. Indiana Conference Minutes of the Methodist Episcopal Church:

"Very marked prosperity has attended this institution during the past year. A large and commodious building is now in course of erection. One hundred feet front by forty-five feet deep, at a cost of about \$14,000.00, which, in addition to the building now occupied, will afford ample conveniences for the purpose of school. We recommend the appointment of A. G. Gee and N. L. Brakeman as visitors."

These "DIVERS CITIZENS" only raised \$2500 to buy from the Methodists the Academy Property, May 15, 1878. Book 52, p.445

The \$10,055.82 was raised by the Methodists to build the addition to the old Seminary Building. August 14, 1860 - From Archives

When the Methodists sold the Academy property for \$2500, that was practically a gift, considering the thousands of dollars they had invested in the school and premises.

Treasurer's statements of the local Methodist Church probably list contributions, with the dates, that continued to come in support of the Academy. Reports in the Western Christian Advocate indicate that the church was generous in giving.

CENTRAL NORMAL COLLEGE 1878 - 1946

By Margaret Baker

Outlined by Ruth Pritchard

1. Move from Ladoga to Danville May 10, 1878:
Equipment; 200 students; Faculty with loss of 1 school day.
School bought for \$10,000 - Not Stolen
2. C.N.C. brought "Golden Age" for Danville.
Outstanding Faculty Members
Franklin P. Adams
Mrs. E. E. Olcutt
Dr. Henry Medford Whisler
Prof. Charles A. Hargrave
Mrs. Blanche M. Wean
A. Kate Huron
Dr. Jonathan R. Rigdon
Dr. George Riebold
D. Fred Luscomb
Miss Marjorie Dean Gaston who composed music for "The Pedge of Allegiance to the Flag" and received Teacher's Aware from Freedom Foundation at Valley Forge
3. Influence of Danville Citizens
4. What did C.N.C. produce?
 - 1 Governor - The Honorable Samuel Ralston, later U.S. Senator
 - 2 Superintendants of Public Instruction
 - 27 Former students in State legislature at one timeDoctors, Lawyers, Authors, Composers, Ministers - 1,000s of Teachers.
5. Sustaining Force - Spirit (compared to Spirit of U.S.)
"Give me your tired, your poor,
your huddled masses yearning to breath free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore,
Send these - the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I will lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

With apologies to Emma Lazarus, Margaret Baker offered the following lines as the expression of the Spirit of a great school whose influence will never die.

"Give me your young, your poor,
Your masses yearning so to live and learn,
The longing, eager youth who hope for more
Than mere existence - if to me they'll turn,
I, too, will lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

For more than twelve years I have been collecting information on the Central Normal College in Danville, Indiana.

With help from Betty Bartley of The Indiana Room of The Danville Public Library my most recent "finds" were about a native of Center Valley Indiana - John William Craven.

I remember when John W. Craven had a cottage on the home place at Center Valley just south of the Center Valley Cenetery and the Center Valley Prinitive Baptist Church. This was about 1916. He also had several beautiful peacocks penned there within a high wire fence. They were very showy creatures and attracted the attention of the "Kids" on the school hack as we rode by there on the way to and from school.

John W. Craven deserves the credit for starting our Blanche M. Wean on her teaching career. (See page 12 of her The Wean - McNeely Family, 1982)

Ruth Mitchell Pritchard
October 15, 1984

From "Biographical Directory of The Indiana General Assembly"

Page 84

CRAVEN(S), John William 1899 - 1901 (Brown and Monroe) Born October 1, 1864 at Center Valley, Hendricks County Indiana. Attended public schools; Central Normal College, Danville, Indiana - graduated 1884; Indiana University, graduated 1897. Married Emma Lucille Krueger 1891 (1 child) Emma died 1898; married Mellie Parker Greene 1916; Presbyterian (had been a Baptist) Editor Danville Gazette 1884-1885; part owner Bloomington World 1893-1906; registrar, Indiana University 1895-1936 secretary Indiana University 1915-1936 Democrat. Monroe County Superintendent of schools 1887-1890; Monroe County Clerk 1890-1894; presidential elector 1912. Chairman Monroe County Democratic Committee 1890-1896 member Indiana Democratic central Committee, 1916-1918. American Association of College Registrars, president 1913; Rotary; Freenason; Odd Fellows; Knights of Pythias; Elks; Indiana University board of trustees, secretary; 1898-1936; Died August 10, 1937 Bloomington Monroe County Indiana. (Who - America; Sketches 1899; Stoll; Myers; Lawrence; I B I.)

From May - June 1889 Central Normal Post page 2

Center Valley Native - Graduated from Central Normal College

A MODEL COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT.

Supt. John W. Craven completed his school visitation for the Year of 1888-9 last Thursday, and during the time he walked 289 miles, rode 186 miles, visited more than a hundred teachers, made one hundred and two speeches to pupils, fell in Salt creek once, was chased by a bull dog for a quarter of a mile, run through a ten acre brier patch by a "gentleman" cow, and notwithstanding all these experiences he looks hale and hearty and bids fair to live to a ripe old age.--Bloomington Courier.

Mr. Craven is a Scientific graduate of the Central Normal College, having completed his course in 1884. Last year he issued a school manual for his teachers, which has attracted as much attention as a volume of poems ordinarily does. All the comments are favorable. It is a small library. It assists the teacher in every part of his work, gives him good literature to read, points out the sure road to success in business and will serve as a moral guide throughout life. The superintendents of other counties should adopt it.

Mr. Craven has been remarkably successful in all his enterprises and has the hearty support of the teachers of the county. The institutes and associations are better attended than ever before. Although the State University has been in that county for many years, we understand the common schools have been far behind those of many other counties. In no county is the improvement now more rapid than in Monroe. We attribute this wholly to Mr. Craven's efforts.

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IN MEMORIUM

Members of our Society were shocked to hear of the sudden death of Maureen Good in a traffic accident in the southern part of the state, October 19, 1984. She is survived by a son and a daughter and a brother, and to then we extend our sincere sympathy.

And once again, we wish to express our sadness in losing Clarence Bray, who passed away just before our last meeting. Clarence and Mary Elizabeth have been faithful and very helpful members of our Society for many years. They worked with us in our Sesquicentennial Celebration, in the publishing of our History of Hendricks County, in the Museum work, and in every facet of our endeavors. We shall miss him, and to Mary Elizabeth and her family, we offer our support and deepest sympathy.

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Miles Furnace was eighteen years old when he presented his essay to the Dover Literary Society, May 19, 1884

IDLE GOSSIP OR SLANDER

The subject of my essay this evening, while it may not be in line with the exercises is of much importance to us as a church, a people, or a social community.

I refer to the subject of "Idle gossip or slander". I wish I could portray it in all its hideousness, the irreparable injury done to many persons through its accursed influences: aiming as it does at the very character and heart of its victim and cowardly crouching by the wayside until he is past, strikes him in the back inflicting a wound from which he never will recover let his future life be as it may.

The man or woman who will wilfully slander another by saying a thing of him at his back, is a moral Guiteau, and deserves no better treatment, metaphorically speaking, than that cowardly assassin received.

It is just the meanest, lowest, vilest things that one can do, worse than stealing acorns from a blind hog.

I wish I had command of seven different languages perhaps I might find words in that many to partially express my abhorrence of it. Now let us look into the working of this social distemper and see if we can recognize any of its blameful effects in our own community.

You will find in every neighborhood some half dozen or more disreputable characters whose chief business seems to be to collect, fabricate, and distribute choice bits of scandal concerning their more worthy neighbors.

They are generally such notorious liars that did their tales stop with the person to whom they told then no harm would be done for no one would believe them. But No. 2 being a little better thought of in the community and having told the truth a few times in his life, retells the paragraph to No. 3, who stands still higher in the social scale, being very careful, however, that the report loses nothing by passing through his hands.

And thus it goes on gaining prestige and proportion by every rehearsal (told always in strict confidence and without giving authority of course) until it would not be recognized by the malicious liar who gave it birth. Can you bring to mind a case of this kind which has occurred under your own observation?

Someone has said that it is a woman's prerogative to gossip, and I guess we will have to admit it as a fact but remember that no true lady will be guilty of the error. For instance, look in our own neighborhood and see if they, the women who gossip, stand as high in the social circle as other ladies who do not. But let me say in behalf of the female race that almost one half of the tales told originate with the sterner sex.

How can we remedy this growing evil? First, let us set a guard upon our own lips and see that we are not guilty ourselves. Second, when we hear a report derogatory to the character of any one, make the informer bring his authority for it and trace it back thus to its conception.

Then go to the scandalized individual and have him confronted with his accusers face to face give every one a fair show with opportunity to prove or disprove any statement which has been made. In nine times out of ten you will run the liar to the wall giving him such a backset that he will be very careful not to have the dose repeated.

Third. If every time you hear any one tell a thing beginning with "they say" ask them who "they say" is and if they can't tell you tell them that "they say" is a recognized liar whose oath is not received in any court of equity in the land.

Fourth and last. If any individual of your acquaintance has been conducting himself in a manner incomprehensible to you, and you have cause to fear that all is not right, and you feel it to be your duty to investigate the matter, he is the one to go to with your suspicion and not to the general public. He may be able in a very few words to explain all to your perfect satisfaction.

A better way, however, is to keep your own counsel, your own shirt clean, and mind your own business.

Finally, let us each one constitute himself a committee of one to see that this social canker eating out the vitals of church, school social circle and endangering through them the state its self, be for ever banished in all its loathsomeness from the presence of all just and right minded humanity.

Written by Miles Furnas on this the 19th day of May 1884, A.D.

Miles Furnas was eighteen years old when he presented his essay to the Dover Literary Society.

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