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# HENDRICKS COUNTY

## HISTORY BULLETIN



VOLUME XVI NUMBER IV

NOVEMBER 1985  
PUBLISHED BY

THE HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
DANVILLE, INDIANA

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ORGANIZED 1967

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ANNUAL DUES \$3.00 PAYABLE IN NOVEMBER

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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)  
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Danville, IN 46122  
Tel. 745-2115

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AUGUST 4, 1985 MEETING

On a beautiful August day, we gathered at the lovely picturesque Mill Creek Friends Meeting House, nestled among stately old trees and surrounded by a neatly kept yard and cemetery. As one strolled among the stones, noting the names on the very old monuments as well as the newer ones, one was made aware, again, of the inexorable continuity of the generations, as one follows another, not only in life, but in death. It was so quiet and peaceful there, one was reluctant to go inside.

During the short business meeting, conducted by Robert Carter, Lois Crayton gave the history of the Meeting House, followed by a moment of silent prayer in memory of Forest Cauldwell and Ed Winkelman so recently deceased. Betty Bartley, program chairman, talked about the history of not only the Meeting House, but the school as well, then introduced Jodi Whicker, our speaker.

Jodi told of her family's experiences in living in the old Furnas house while working on their long range plan of restoration. Their many hardships have been taken in stride with their enthusiasm for their project. She brought along many artifacts found in the house and read from the journals they found there. Jodi is a delightful speaker and she kept us enthralled. We have learned since that the kitchen and yard will be used in the movie "Hoosiers" which is in the process of being filmed in Indiana.

Following the talk, we turned our attention to the refreshments provided by the Center and Marion Township ladies.

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NOVEMBER 3, 1985

In November (surely not November yet! That has to be a mix-up!) meeting will be at the North Salem Christian Church when Libbe Hughes will give a talk on COL. ABEL STREIGHT and THE 51st REGIMENT, INDIANA VOLUNTEERS. Libbe is assistant Historical Librarian at the Danville Public Library and Betty Bartley's right hand man. She is going to tell us some exciting things about a group that has never had a lot of publicity. This will be another of our interesting meetings, so plan to come for I shall speak to the weather man and tell him that we aren't ready for November weather!

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HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES? IF NOT, NOVEMBER IS THE TIME! \$3.00.

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MUSINGS AT THE MUSEUM

The museum was open both days of the street fair, Swap and Shop. We had approximately 100 visitors. The weather was great. Some years it wasn't anything to brag about.

During the months since the last meeting we have received several items. There is a large metal sleigh-bell. Wouldn't that make some nice music? Youngsters of

all ages love toys. There are several. There is a lambs-wool filled comforter that would be welcome during the cold weather. As well as a gold silk bonnet, and a two-piece quaker style dress. Then there are books and pictures. A great deal of World War I memorabilia. In 1909 a grammar-school diploma rated a ceremony. Today not much is made of it but we are fortunate to have one at the museum.

A nice illuminated glass case revolves to show off its contents, some of the small articles. That way they can't walk off. Another goodie is a report card dated Nov. 10, 1893. How long has it been since we've seen an honest-to-goodness glass ink bottle? And how about a wool pin cushion? It has been a while since metal talcum powder cans were used.

There are business bills that show who used to be in business in the community, as well as the old calendar. Various newspapers of a by-gone day well tell the happenings of that day.

Bonnets! Yes, we wore bonnets! The museum has a nice array. There are bonnets for babies. Yes, for babies! They must not get sun-burned! Our dolls are the models. Little ones to great big ones. Then came the big girls and their mothers. Some were fancy, all done up with lace and perhaps ruffles - no-permanent press yet. Perhaps lots of tucks and quilted to hold its shape. Depending on the time mother had to spend on sewing, we'd find trims, rick-rack, bias binding, etc. There were split bonnets that would have spaces for strips of card-board, or whatever was available to make them stiff. Those were easier to iron than the others. In those days to wear something without ironing was almost a sin.

Bonnets were as useful and as necessary as aprons. They wouldn't carry as much but they did O.K. in a pinch. It wasn't uncommon to use both the apron and bonnet to bring in something. Do be careful with the eggs!

It wouldn't do for a little girl to get her face and neck sun burned, and older girls were supposed to know better. "Where's your bonnet?!" was a question often heard. Our grandmothers would faint if they saw the sun-worshippers today!

There were the winter bonnets made of heavy material. There was the Sunday go-to-meeting bonnet. The one we have is in fine black cotton, lace trimmed. It is generously made so it covered the neck and shielded the face well. No sun or wind dared hit it. A porcelain-like complexion was prized but not always attainable.

Bonnets!

Jewell

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EXTRA!!! EXTRA!!! EXTRA!!! FLASH!!!

Nothing will seem unfamiliar to Dorothy A. Kelley (OUR Dorothy A. Kelley!) when she steps into the old Brownsburg High School gymnasium to take her seat for the filming of the movie, HOOSIERS. After all, she has been there many times before.

"I was in the first class that graduated from there," she said. She graduated from high school in 1929. The gym where part of HOOSIERS will be filmed was built in 1928.

"I love basket ball," said the Brownsburg grandmother. "From the first grade on up I went to pep sessions for the high school teams. My parents had season tickets."

Well, we always knew Dorothy was special and now Hollywood is beckoning! We just hope the offers aren't so great that she will be lured away from good old Hendricks County! We can't get along without her!

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#### QUERIES

Our apologies to DORA SLEYSER, 903 Park Lane, Harrisonville, MO 64701, whose queries got lost in the shuffle:

WEST, FLATHERS, TINDER, MILES ... need proof of parentage of HARVEY FLATHERS m. to MARY ANN MILES by a HOOTEN, minister of Gospel. HARVEY in H. County Apr., 1842. MARY ANN re-married Oct., 1843. EDWARD FLATHERS listed HARVEY as deceased in 1844 will. Also 2 daus. of WM. W. WEST & SARAH (PILCHER) WEST. mar. HOLTZCLAW. JANE m. DANIEL FRANKLIN HOLTZCLAW and SALLY (SARAH) was 2nd wife of MARSHALL FLATHERS. Will be glad to exchange info on these lines.

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FEAR, JOHN D. b. 1787 Va. m. SARAH (?) 12 children. Lived in H. CO. and Boone Co. in 1850's. Wish to correspond. Postage refunded. ROBERTA YATES, 36634 S.E. Tracy Rd., Estacada, OR 97023.

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Researching STARK(S) & DURHAM. MATILDA DURHAM m. PERRY STARK, 25 Aug. 1862 in H. Co. who were their parents and siblings? Will answer all letters. Have much STARK info. CHARLES BOND, 1201 Michael Ct., Sulsum, CA 94585

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PLASTERER, JOHANNES, b. 11 Mar, 1798 in Manheim, PA Settled in H. Co. JAMES W. PLASTERER m. MARGARET BRICKFORD 31 DEC. 1920 in H. Co. Seek info on any PLASTERER in H. Co. ROBERT S. YOUSLING, Apt. 508, Camelot Towers, 827 Albia Rd., Ottumwa, Iowa 52501

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#### IN MEMORIUM

Again our society is saddened and diminished by the deaths of two loyal members, Mildred B. Smith in August and Mary B. McCollum in October. Mildred had served our organization, as well as a number of others, in many capacities and her contributions will be greatly missed. Mary enjoyed the NCHS and attended faithfully as long as her health permitted. We will miss these lovely ladies and we extend our sympathies to their families.

Following is a tribute to Mildred by a dear friend:

#### IN MEMORY OF A FRIEND

Our Historical Society has come of age, now reaching its 18th year and we are experiencing the sadness which accompanies the loss of many of our beloved members.

Lately, we are lumenting the death of Mildred Smith, one of the charter members, a past president, a member of the constitution committee, an able speaker, and an intelligent and enthusiastic worker at all times.

We salute her and point with pride to her many activities, not least among them 50 years as a teacher in Brownsburg High School, her dedication to education, to politics, to participation to all local projects which she deemed worthy.

She was beloved by many; admired by all.

A long time friend,

Frances Fisher

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#### YESTERDAY'S IRONING HAS TURNED FROM TOIL TO MEMORIES

The warm days filled with the scent of hot cotton and accented by the hiss of steam are beginning to fade into the past--a weekly routine that occupied the households of an earlier time. Just as sure as Monday was wash day, Tuesday was ironing day.

A parade of radio characters helped pass the time required by this chore every week. First, "Ma Perkins", then "Lorenzo Jones", followed by an interlude with Arthur Godfrey.

Then came the heavies...no sooner were we "dashed on the rocks of despair" with Helen Trent, than we wondered whether "the little girl from the mining town", Our Gal Sunday, would survive.

When "Pepper Young's Family" came on, it was a signal to put the ironing board away, for the kids would soon be coming home from school.

It's easy to take today's ironing tools for granted until you see how it used to be done. Yesterday's irons were a far cry from the streamlined models.

#### Long-Ago Use

Those irons so faithfully used are now spending more time on a shelf in the linen closet because of today's wrinkle-resistant clothes.

While the use of irons shrinks from prominence, there's a growing interest in collecting old ones. They are a collectible part of Americana that combined function with fashionable design. These irons bring on nostalgia-filled eyes.

Ironing wasn't fun for farm wife or any homemakers years ago. The simple flatiron had to be reheated often on top of the stove. A later invention, the alcohol-burning iron with fuel chamber would stay hot up to 2 hours.

The irons of grandmother's day are most sought after--simple flatirons, or sadirons (pointed at both ends with removable handle), which were heated on wood-burning stoves. Many collectors use them as doorstops. These stove irons are the rarest, since as a metal, cast iron is very breakable. Many old irons have cracked into several pieces because of the repeated heating and cooling during use. The rare charcoal-burning iron has a chamber to hold hot charcoal bricks. The vents were necessary to keep the coals burning.

An offshoot of iron collecting is centered around the trivets hot irons rested on during use. Sometimes ornate, sometimes simple and purely functional, the trivets

are especially valuable "if they have stampings indicating manufacturer," says Paul Teshkin, a Chicago-based expert on collectible Americana pieces.

For special ironing jobs, the hinged flatiron was a must--its top could lift up and give two heated surfaces for pressing. A 20-lb "tailor's goose" iron was once used in laundries and other commercial laundry establishments.

Although the thought of flatirons heating on a stove conjures up romantic images of working near the hearth at "The Little House on the Prairie", housework--especially ironing--was once heavy-duty labor, since the irons had to be heated and then reheated. Some weighed up to 15 pounds each! To iron you had to sprinkle the clothes with water, then hope the hot iron wouldn't stick to the clothes. All this and no radio.

Around the turn of the century, some of the drudgery of ironing was reduced. Alcohol-burning irons, containing small fuel chambers, would burn for about 2 hours without refueling, eliminating the need for constant reheating. Scarcity, and the sometimes bizarre designs of those alcohol irons, make them quite collectible today.

Experiments with charcoal-burning irons and even gasfired irons attempted to relieve the housewife's weekly bane, but temperature regulation of those irons was always a problem. One style with front flue, another with side flue and finger shield. It took real skill to know how long you could leave the irons in contact with the clothes.

#### Amazing Improvements

Between 1910-1920, homemakers got the biggest improvement in ironing--electric irons that were lighter and stayed hot, and was about the same time that radio emerged as a popular force. The early electric models even had thermostats to maintain constant temperature--a first!

Today there is a small antiques market for collecting these early electrics--they're even more desirable if they still work.

Steam irons arrived around 1935. The technology for these has remained basically the same right down to today's appliances. It was thanks to these that a new way of housework--if not a way of life--developed. Radio's legendary characters helped even further.

Today, old time radios and rebroadcasts of old-time radio programs have established themselves as favorites with nostalgia buffs.

It probably won't be long before an antique iron will find its place on the display shelf next to a Philco radio. Together they will raise memories of the crackle and hiss of steam and radio ads for "Chase and Sanborn" coffee, after which "we'll be right back."

Ironing today may not give the same homey feeling of coziness as hot appliance and radio pass the time, but looking back at grandma's tools helps us appreciate the way things were and are today.

"The warm days filled with the scent of cotton and accented by the hiss of steam are beginning to fade into the past..."

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NEWS FROM THE INDIANA ROOM  
DANVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

by Betty Bartley

We have recently received a number of items of historical interest from the New Winchester Alumni Association. Among the items are road tax lists, teachers contracts, drivers contracts, and grade registers from a number of the township schools. A more detailed description of the items will appear in the next issue of the bulletin.

We have also received microfilm copies of the registers and minutes of the Abner's Creek Regular Baptist Church in Washington township, dating from 1836 to 1923.

Two additions have been made to our cemetery files. We have received a transcript of information taken from the early mortuary records of the Fairview Cemetery by Maxine Cox and Grace Cox. We also have copies of the original registers from that cemetery. Mr. Beuford Hall has sent us transcripts of the Clermont cemetery in neighboring Marion County.

Among the items from Marion township were the contracts for school bus drivers. The following is a list of the routes and the drivers for the 1927-1928 school year. The amount shown after the drivers' names indicate what they were paid per day to drive the routes.

- ROUTE 1: Verl Pace (\$3.00) All pupils in district one known as Robbins school district, also all pupils on Maysville road west of Needmore.
- ROUTE 2: Frank Blanton (\$5.75) From Rock Branch to Geo. Joseph's west to Oscar Higgins' place on county line, south to Ray Lewis', east to New Winchester.
- ROUTE 3: Eddie R. Canada (\$3.00) From Neal Trent's to Verne Wolfe's, east on New Maysville road to Chatham road to New Winchester & from Ernest Nims' north to Rockville road & west to School building.
- ROUTE 4: Wm. H. Gans (\$3.00) From home to Game's back to Malicoat's back to New Winchester road to School building.
- ROUTE 5: Clyde Gray (\$3.00) From home to Jackson's east to Hughes' back and east to Harry Blair's, south to Rockville road west to Hadley road, south to Greencastle road, back to School building. From Jesse O'Dell's back to School building.
- ROUTE 6: Bennie V. Pierson (\$5.00) From home to Harlan Morgan's back to J. N. Baxter's then to School building, also pick up children on Rockville road.
- ROUTE 7: Sallie Scott (\$2.50) All children on Greencastle road and west from Hadley road to Walter Hadley's place.

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The following Civil War letters were loaned to the Danville Public Library for copying by John E. Anderson, Jr. Excerpts from one of these letters will be used by Libbe Hughes for her program on the 51st Indiana Volunteers at our November meeting. The letters are presented here in their entirety for our members.

The first letter is from Thomas C. Rose. Mr. Rose was born in 1840, the son of Lewis A. and Flora Vannice Rose. At the opening of the war, he enlisted in Company A., 51st Indiana Volunteers. He was mustered out in 1863, due to ill health. After the war he married Mary C. Clay, and moved to Eel River township where he spent the remainder of his life. He died in 1918 and is buried in the Fairview cemetery.

In his letter to his brother and sister, he gives an account of the aftermath of the battle at Pittsburg Landing.

Camp of the 51st Reg. Ind Vol  
April the 17th 1862

Dear Brother and Sister

I will now try and answer your welcome letter which came to hand today. it came by the way of Nashville and therefore was detained. We are both well as usual. We are now encaped on the battle ground at the Pitsburg landing. We have been here some nine or ten days and have been without tents or any other Camp equippage until today. They came up about one hour ago and we are once more in our house. I suppose you have long since heard of the particulars of the great battle which was fought here. it is said to be the greated battle that ever was fought in america. There was a great many lives lost on both sides. I suppose you have heard that the fifty first was in the fight but we was not. We got there the next day after the rebels retreated.

I will not try to give you any acount of battle you get the news more correct through the papers than I could give. It is said there was some five thousand of our men killed and ten thousand of the rebels. When we first went on the field we could see in some places eight or ten men in one place lying some with their heads off some with their faces all off some one way and some another. It was a sad scene but I soon got used to it. The men and horses almost covered the ground in places. Well you said you sent us some provisions. I am sorry to say that we have never received them. we never knew that you sent them until today. Jim got the letter that was sent the same time today. We may possibly get them yet but it is very uncertain. we left Nashville the 29th of March and I expect they came there in a few days afterward. I would like to have got them. they would have tasted more than good and would have been from home besides. But it is very uncertain sending such things for we never know how long we are going to stay at one place. As for selling my mare I dont know what to say. You can do as you think best if you have any price for her I believe I would rather you would keep her until fall unless you could get a better price for her. But do as you think best and I will be satisfied. I must bring my letter to a close. I expect it would be a great show to you to be here. it is said there is two hundred thousand troops here at this time. We will probably leave here soon. So no more at present.

But ever Remain your  
affectionate Brother T. Rose

The second Civil War letter is from Lewis M. Rose, brother of Thomas C. Rose. Lewis M. Rose married Margaret Kelley in 1855 and moved to New Mayesville. In August of 1862 he enlisted in Co. B, 99th Regiment, Indiana Volunteers. He died in service in January of the following year. This letter was written about a month before his death. In it, he expresses a hope that the war will soon be over. His longing to be home with his family is seen in his concern for his children.

In Camp on the  
Yacnapatapha River  
Miss. Dec 17th '62

Dear wife and Children

as I have nothing to do this evening and there is a chance of sending letters in the morning to Oxford I will send you a few lines to let you know that we are still alive and in good spirits. I wrote to you on last Sunday. I was suffering with a gethinging in my ear at that time. on monday evening it began to run it is nearly well now. our company was called out on picket this morning and will not be back until in the morning. I did not like to be out after night so I staid at home and it is a little lonesome to for the mess is all gone excepting myself. we are still in camp where we was when I last wrote. why we are staying here I cannot tell. we thought that we were going to Jackson to scare the rebels there. some say that we will stay here for some time. congress is about to settle the war. we got no news here. we have not had a mail since we left Memphis on the 26th of Nov. what is the matter I cannot tell. I hope the cause will soon be removed for I want to hear from home. Mag I sold my comefort before we left Memphis for one dollar and twenty five cents. I thought that would be better than to send it home. Mag if Alice is going to school get her a heavy pair of shoes. them I got her is to light but I expect that you have already done that. yesterday I believe was Flora's birth day how I wish that I could see her walking. I hope that it will not be long until this rebellion is crushed and all of us be permitted to return in peace. I don't write now to any one only you and I don't know whether you get them or not. our mail should come by the way of Columbus Ky. we are on the railroad running to Columbus and it is in operation now. that is the way that we get our supplies now. letters might and go in a few days if everything was right. I expect that they come to Memphis and there they stay unless they send them back to Columbus and start them right. I would like to know whether Jim was ever brought back. I juess that it will not be long until we get mail and then we can hear all the news. I expect that you have wrote often. the other day I wrote I was so hurried that I had not time to close. I expect that Henry & Steward is both writing to day. they went of well this morning. we talk every day how we are a going to eat biscuit and cobbler pies when we get home. nothing more at present. write soon. your affectionate husband. L. M. Rose

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BUGGIES AND BAD TIMES is the title of the third book in the series "Memories of Hoosier Homemakers", an oral history project of the Indiana Extension Homemakers Association.

The book is edited by Eleanor Arnold, formerly a Hendricks County resident. The book is made of excerpts from interviews with women throughout the state. Two subjects are dealt with: the changes in transportation seen by the women since the early part of this century, and the impact of world events on the lives and values of the families.

The book is well illustrated with photos from family collections and other sources. Copies may be found at the Danville and Plainfield Public Libraries. They may also be purchased at the Hendricks County Cooperative Extension office at Danville. The price of the book is \$5.00.

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The Furnas house, which was the subject of our August meeting, will be featured in the movie, "Hoosiers", which is being filmed in central Indiana.

According to Jody Whicker, who presented a history of the house at our last meeting, the kitchen of the historic farmhouse will be used for a scene in the movie featuring its star, Gene Hackman. A part of the barnlot will also be used for filming. A sorghum mill will be constructed there and used in the scene to be filmed there. Another scene takes place during a corn harvest, and will be filmed in a nearby cornfield.

The Downard house, located on the Amo-Hadley road (450 W), will also be featured in the movie. The owners, Bob and Debbie Burns, are in the process of renovating the house. Three rooms of the house will be used by the film company for scenes in the movie.

The old high school gymnasium at Brownsburg will be featured as one of the sites for the basketball tourney that takes place in the movie. At the time of this writing, several other locations in the county are being considered for scenes in the movie. Filming is scheduled to take place the last part of October and November.

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Owners of two historic homes in Hendricks County are seeking information on their houses and the former owners.

The Hoadley house, at 184 N. Washington in Danville, is undergoing restoration by the current owners, Rodney and Amanda Page. Early residents of the house included Dr. Abram Hoadley, Col. C. C. Nave, and Dr. Henry Cox.

The Downard house, located a mile south of U.S. 36 on Road 450 W., is being restored by Bob and Debbie Burns. They are especially interested in information on members of the Downard family, and in photographs of the house and barn. Their address is R. R. 1, Box 84, Coatesville, Indiana 46121.

The owners of these historic houses would appreciate any information that our Historical Society members might have to share with them.

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#### COURT HOUSE UPDATE

Exterior renovation on the Hendricks County Court House, which was described by Wayne Coles at our February meeting, is underway. The replacement windows are being installed, and the work should be completed by the end of October. The new windows are similar in looks to the originals, but with a dark metallic frame instead of the green paint that had been used. The new frames will better blend with the stone used in the Court House, and give the effect of a larger building.

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PLAINFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Historical Collection of the Plainfield Public Library has recently added the following materials:

Brant & Fuller. History of Shelby Co., Ind. (1887)  
Goodspeed & Blanchard. History Whitley & Noble Cos., Ind. (1882)  
Jackson Morrow. History of Howard Co., Ind. (1900, 2 vols.)  
Filby. Bibliography of American County Histories.  
Baxter. In Search of your European Roots.  
Schreiner-Yantis. Genealogical Books in Print. (4th ed.)  
Guilford County, N. C. Genealogical Society. Surname Research Directory.  
Newman. Research in Indiana Courthouses.  
Stephens. History of Miami County. (1896)  
Fairview Cemetery, North Salem, Ind.  
Cerny. Ancestry's Guide to Research.  
Stilesville Schools Souvenir Booklet.  
The Normal Teacher, Danville, Indiana. April 1880 and June 1881.  
History of Boone Co., Ind. (1985)  
History of Northeastern Wayne County, Indiana.  
Carty. Searching in Indiana: a reference guide to public and private records.  
Chappel. Families of Bond, Ballard, Hadley, Fields.  
Chappel. Ballards of Mooresville & Plainfield, Indiana.  
Jarboe. Obituaries: a Guide to Sources.

Also,

Brelsford. Indians of Montgomery County, Indiana.  
Blue. Hoosier Wit and Wisdom.  
1986 Harris Indiana Industrial Directory.  
VanderMeer. The Hoosier Politician: officeholding and political culture  
in Indiana, 1896-1920.  
IHS. The Lincoln Image: Abraham Lincoln and the popular print.  
Quaife. Capture of Old Vincennes.  
Barce. The Land of the Potawatomi.  
Lamb. Indian lore.  
Indiana Farm Bureau. School Statistical Report.  
ibid. County Government Statistical Report.  
Gilman. Maconaquah, White Rose of the Miamis.  
Finney. Gene Stratton-Porter, the Natural Wonder. Surviving Photographs of  
the Great Limberlost Swamp by G. S. P.

Interested persons may use these books at the Plainfield Library's Historical Collection during its regular hours, from noon until 5 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, and from 9 a.m. - noon and 1-5 p.m. on the last Saturday of the month. For more information call Susan Carter, Historical Librarian, at 839-6602.

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The Plainfield Public Library announces the recent acquisition of 75 rolls of microfilm containing historical Hendricks County records. The microfilm, which was purchased from the LDS Church headquarters in Salt Lake City, will add greatly to the resources available for research in the library's local history collection.

Documents available include Hendricks County Deed Records from 1830 through 1886 and general indexes to the deeds. These are records kept by the Recorder's Office.

Hendricks County Marriage Records from 1824-1925, Marriage Applications from 1885-1922, and Marriage Affidavits from 1866-1879 may also be consulted.

From the Clerk's office, Will Records from March 1881-1926, Probate Order Books from 1844-1918, and Complete Probate Books dating 1826-1905 have been added.

Finally, a roll of miscellaneous records including Naturalization, Birth, and Partitions is also available.

Those who are interested in researching local history and genealogy may use these records at the Plainfield Public Library during regular Historical Collection hours, noon-5 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday and 9 a.m.-noon and 1-5 p.m. on the last Saturday of the month.

The Plainfield Public Library is located at 1120 Stafford Road (the corner of Simmons Street and Stafford Road). For further information, call Historical Librarian Susan Carter at 839-6602.

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JENNY CRAVEN RALSTON AND CENTER VALLEY  
by Ruth Mitchell Pritchard

Margaret Post Moore's recent book on First Ladies of Indiana, has pleased readers over the state. Hendricks County historians especially enjoyed the chapter on our own Jenny Craven Ralston, of Center Valley, Indiana.

Jenny's Center Valley had a Regular (Primitive) Baptist church where Cravens, Barkers, Richardsons and others worshipped. It was constituted in 1832 at the home of Jenny's grandfather, William Murray Craven, on the waters of McCracking Creek.

An early blacksmith shop served the community. District school number thirteen filled education needs.

William Reece Craven, Jenny's father built a store at Center Valley in 1866. The merchandise was groceries, patent medicine, dry-goods, clothing, and hardware. William R. Craven was in this business until 1889. The Center Valley Post Office, established April 30, 1856 was later in this general store.

Through the church, store and post office, the Craven family was in contact with a wide circle of people. This experience probably contributed to Jenny's remarkable personality.

A list of Center Valley postal patrons, copied from the 1874 Hendricks County Directory shows the area served to be about 7 by 10 miles. Hazelwood, Joppa and LaClair did not yet have post offices. So these people went to Center Valley for mail service and to exchange news as well as "trade" at the store.

Bailey, A.M., 1½ miles southeast. He was a farmer.

b. Ind. 1854, came to Hendricks Co. 1857, Pol., Democrat. Regular (Primitive) Baptist

Bailey, James L. - farmer, 1 mile east

b. Ind. 1836, came to Hendricks Co. 1872, Pol., Democrat Methodist

Bailey, Milton - farmer, 1½ miles N  
 b. Ind. 1847, Came to Hendricks Co. 1857, Pol. Democrat, Protestant (Methodist)

Bailey, Thomas - farmer, 1½ miles SE  
 b. Hendricks Co., 1857, Pol. Democrat - Protestant

Ballard, Joshua - farmer, 1 mile south  
 b. Hendricks Co. 1834, Pol. Republican, Friend

Barker, George - farmer 4 miles South of Clayton  
 b. MO. 1845, Came to Hendricks Co. 1845, Pol. Republican, Regular (Primitive) Baptist

Barker, J.F. (Joshua Fields), farmer, 1 mile S.E.  
 b. Hendricks Co., Ind 1831, Pol. Democrat, Methodist (Salem M.E.)

Bayliss, Wm. M., farmer, 3 miles N.W.  
 b. VA 1850, Came to Hendricks Co. 1858, Pol. Democrat, Protestant (Methodist)

Bayliss, John W., farmer 3 miles N.W.  
 b. VA 1828, Came to Hendricks Co. 1858, Pol. Democrat, Methodist

Bayliss, M.W., farmer, 3 miles N.W.  
 b. VA 1853, came to Hendricks Co. 1858, Pol. Democrat, Methodist

Berry, W. W., farmer, 4 miles W.  
 b. Hendricks Co. 1835, Pol. Republican, Christian

Blunk, A.G., farmer, 4 miles S.W.  
 b. IN 1840, came to Hendricks Co. 1859, Pol. Republican, Methodist

Blunk, J.W., farmer, 5 miles S.W.  
 b. Hendricks Co. 1850, Pol. Independent, Protestant

Bray, Milton, farmer, 1 mile N.E.  
 b. IN 1844, came to Hendricks Co. 1850, Pol. Republican, Methodist

Brown, Wm. B., farmer, 5 miles S.W.  
 b. IN 1838, came to Hendricks Co. 1865, Pol. Republican, Protestant

Cain, B., farmer, 2 miles S.W.  
 b. IN 1849, came to Hendricks Co. 1870, Pol. Republican, Protestant

Carter, James Maxwell, farmer, 1 mile W  
 b. IN 1814, came to Hendricks Co. 1835, Pol. Independent, Methodist (Salem M.E.)

Carter, L.B., farmer, 4 miles W.  
 b. N.C. 1817, came to Hendricks Co. 1867, Pol. Republican, Friend

Chambers, J.A., farmer, 1½ miles N.E.  
 b. N.C. 1831, came to Hendricks Co. 1858, Pol. Republican, Methodist

Clark, Albert, farmer, ½ mile S.  
 b. N.C. 1845, came to Hendricks Co. 1856, Pol. Republican, Friend

Clark, Alexander, ½ mile S.  
 b. N.C. 1813, came to Hendricks Co. 1856, Pol. Republican, Friend

Clark, William, farmer, 2 miles W.  
 b. Hendricks Co. 1849, Pol. Democrat, Protestant

Cox, Wm. P., farmer, 1 mile W.  
 b. N.C. 1849, came to Hendricks Co. 1870, Pol. Democrat, Protestant

Cook, Milton, farmer, 2 miles N.E.  
 b. Hendricks Co. 1829, Pol. Republican, Friend

Cook, Nathan, farmer, 2 miles N.E.  
 b. N.C. 1808, came to Hendricks Co. 1830, Pol. Republican, Friend

Cook, John M., farmer, 2 miles N.E.  
 b. Hendricks Co. 1838, Pol. Republican, Friend

Craven, F. M., carpenter & joiner, 1 mile E.  
b. N.C. 1831, came to Hendricks Co., Pol. Independent, Protestant

Craven, Jesse W., farmer, 1 mile W.  
b. N.C. 1830, came to Hendricks Co., Pol. Democrat, Protestant

Craven, John A., farmer, 4 miles S.W.  
b. N.C. 1805, came to Hendricks Co. 1830, Pol. Republican, Protestant

Craven, S.S., farmer, 4½ miles N.W.  
b. N.C. 1845, Came to Hendricks Co. 1866, Pol. Republican, Missionary Baptist

Craven, Wesley, farmer, 2 miles N.W.  
b. N.C. 1826, Came to Hendricks Co. 1828, Pol. Democrat, Regular (Primitive) Baptist

Craven, W.M., Jr., farmer, 1½ miles W.  
b. N.C. 1843, Came to Hendricks Co. 1860, Pol. Democrat, Regular (Primitive) Baptist

Craven, Wm. M. Sr., farmer  
b. N.C. 1802, Came to Hendricks Co. 1826, Pol. Democrat, Regular (Primitive) Baptist

Craven, W.R., Postmaster & Store of general assortment of goods and groceries  
b. Hendricks Co. 1840, Pol. Democrat, Regular (Primitive) Baptist

Demoss, John N. farmer, 2 miles N.E.  
b. Hendricks Co. 1835, Pol. Republican, Protestant (Methodist)

Dill, John S., farmer, 2 miles N.E.  
b. KY 1828, Came to Hendricks Co. 1866, Pol. Democrat, Protestant

Dossett, J.H., School Teacher, 4 miles S.W.  
b. IN 1843, Came to Hendricks Co. 1870, Pol. Democrat, Protestant

Duncan, Charles, farmer, 4 miles S.W.  
b. N.C. 1810, Came to Hendricks Co. 1832, Pol. Democrat, Protestant

Duncan, William G., farmer, 4 miles S.W.  
b. Hendricks Co. 1843, Pol. Republican, Protestant

English, Robert, farmer  
b. N.C. 1818, Came to Hendricks Co. 1865, Pol. Democrat, Friend

Franklin, R.C., farmer, ½ mile N.E.  
b. Ohio 1828, Came to Hendricks Co. 1856, Pol. Republican, Methodist (Salem M.E. Church)

Fisher, W.H., farmer, 4 miles S.W.  
b. Hendricks Co. 1838, Pol. Republican, Methodist

Goolman, H.D. (Henry) Minister, 4 miles S.W.  
b. KY 1809 Came to Hendricks Co. 1840, Pol. Republican, Methodist

Hadley, Alfred, farmer, 1 mile N.  
b. N.C. 1829, Came to Hendricks Co. 1830, Pol. Republican, Friend

Halfhill, M., farmer, 3 miles W.  
b. Canada 1812, Came to Hendricks Co. 1860

Hazelwood, J.B., Druggist, 3 miles W.  
b. VA 1798, Came to Hendricks Co. 1832, Pol. Democrat, Missionary Baptist

Hazelwood, James B., farmer, 4 miles S.W.  
b. Hendricks Co. 1838, Pol. Democrat, Missionary Baptist

Hutchins, D.M., farmer, 3 miles S.W.  
b. N.C. 1849, Came to Hendricks Co. 1870, Pol. Republican, Friend

Hutchens, W.S. Blacksmith  
b. N.C. 1840, Came to Hendricks Co. 1868, Pol. Independent, Protestant

Hutchings, T.J., farmer, 3 miles S.W.  
 b. N.C. 1845, Came to Hendricks Co. 1871, Pol. Republican, Friend

Hutchings, B.J., farmer, 3 miles W.  
 b. N.C. 1825, Came to Hendricks Co. 1869

Lamb, B., saw-milling in Center Valley  
 b. N.C. 1844, Came to Hendricks Co. 1865, Pol. Democrat, Regular (Primitive) Baptist

Lambert, Enos, farmer  
 b. N.C. 1836, Came to Hendricks Co. 1839, Pol. Democrat, Protestant

Lambert, H.M., Carpenter, 3 miles S.W.  
 b. Hendricks Co. 1852, Pol. Democrat, Protestant

Lambert, W. F., Blacksmith  
 b. Hendricks Co. 1842, Pol. Democrat, Protestant

Lane, R.W., farmer, 2 miles W  
 b. N.C. 1810, Came to Hendricks Co. 1847, Pol. Democrat, Regular (Primitive) Baptist

Larimore, Wm., farmer, 3 miles S.W.  
 b. 1838, Came to Hendricks Co. 1853, Pol. Democrat, Christian

Lietzman, T.D., farmer, 4 miles N.W.  
 b. 1834, Came to Hendricks Co. 1834, Pol. Republican, Protestant

Lietzman, Wm. F., farmer, 4 miles S.W.  
 b. IN 1840, Came to Hendricks Co. 1844

Marker, Amos, Jr., (farmer & carpenter, 1 mile E.)  
 b. VA 1840, Came to Hendricks Co. 1852 (1867)? Pol. Republican, Protestant

Marley, G.W., farmer, 1 mile W  
 b. Hendricks Co. 1847, Pol. Democrat, Protestant

Marley, H.W., farmer, 1 mile S.  
 b. N.C. 1845, Came to Hendricks Co. 1852, Pol. Democrat, Methodist

Marley, Orin L., farmer, 1 mile S.W.  
 b. Hendricks Co. 1851, Pol. Democrat, Protestant

Marley, Wm. F., farmer, 2 miles S.W.  
 b. N.C. 1823, Came to Hendricks Co. 1852, Pol. Republican, Protestant

Marley, W.Y., farmer, 1½ miles E  
 b. N.C. 1826, Came to Hendricks Co. 1865, Pol. Republican, Friend

Marshall, G.C., farmer, 3 miles S.W.  
 b. N.C. 1846, Came to Hendricks Co. 1872, Pol. Republican, Friend

McCloud, G.W., farmer, 5 miles S.W.  
 b. Hendricks Co. 1848, Pol. Republican, Protestant

Milhon, Wm., farmer, 4 miles S.W.  
 b. 1839, Came to Hendricks Co. 1870, Pol. Democrat, Regular (Primitive) Baptist

Mills, H.H., farmer, 2 miles N.E.  
 b. IN 1853 (Hendricks Co.) Pol. Republican, Friend

Morgan, Wm. J., farmer, 2 miles N.E.  
 b. Tenn 1833, Pol. Republican, Friend

Morrison, Charles, carpenter, 2 miles N.E.  
 b. PA 1837, Came to Hendricks Co. 1857, Pol. Republican, Friend

Morrison, J.M., carpenter, 1 mile N.  
 b. PA 1830, Came to Hendricks Co. 1855, Pol. Republican, Protestant



Nangle, John, blacksmith  
 b. IN 1832, Came to Hendricks Co. 1872, Pol. Republican, Methodist

Page, William, farmer, 1 mile S.  
 b. IN 1844, Came to Hendricks Co. 1873, Pol. Democrat, Protestant

Plummer, William, farmer, 1 mile W.  
 b. Hendricks Co. 1829, Pol. Democrat, Protestant (Methodist)

Rawmsley, Joseph, farmer, 3 miles S.W.  
 b. N.C. 1811, Came to Hendricks Co. 1840, Pol. Republican, Friend

Richardson, A. H., farmer, 1 mile W.  
 b. Hendricks Co. 1830, Pol. Democrat, Protestant

Richardson, D.W., farmer, 2 miles W.  
 b. Hendricks Co. 1837  
 Pol. "Thin", Regular (Primitive) Baptist

Richardson, Jeremiah D., farmer, 3 miles S.W.  
 b. Hendricks Co. 1843, Pol. Democrat, Regular (Primitive) Baptist

Richardson, W.B., Stock trader, 2 miles S.W.  
 b. Hendricks Co. 1831, Pol. Democrat, Regular (Primitive) Baptist

Riley, J.W., farmer, 2 miles N.W.  
 b. N.C. 1840, Came to Hendricks Co. 1866, Pol. Democrat, Protestant

Rushton, Enoch, farmer, 1 mile N.  
 b. Hendricks Co. 1840, Pol. Democrat, Protestant (Methodist)

Rushton, Ira, farmer, 1 mile N.  
 b. Hendricks Co. 1830, Pol. Democrat, Protestant (Methodist)

Rushton, Joshua, farmer, ½ mile E.  
 born Hendricks Co. 1843, Pol. Republican, Friend

Rushton, William, farmer, 1 mile N  
 b N.C. 1794 (book says 1801) Came to Hendricks Co. before 1826  
 Pol. Democrat, Methodist (Salem M.E.)

Rushton, Wm. A., farmer, 2 miles N.  
 b. Hendricks Co. 1839, Pol. Democrat, Methodist (Salem M.E.)

Sawyers, J.C., School Teacher, 4 miles S.W.  
 b. Hendricks Co. 1848, Pol. Republican, Protestant

Sawyers, W. W., farmer, 3 miles S.W.  
 b. IN 1845, Came to Hendricks Co. 1846, Pol. Republican, Protestant

Scotten, A.M., farmer, 3 miles S.W.  
 b. N.C. 1833, Came to Hendricks Co. 1841, Pol Democrat, Missionary Baptist

Scotten, Jesse, farmer, 1 mile W.  
 b. N.C. 1809, Came to Hendricks Co. 1841, Pol. Democrat, Regular (Primitive) Baptist

Scotten, Jesse A., farmer, 1 mile W  
 b. N.C. 1852, Came to Hendricks Co., Pol. Democrat, Protestant

Scotten, John P., farmer, 1 mile W  
 b. Hendricks Co. 1845, Pol. Democrat, Protestant

Shaw, Elijah J., farmer, 4 miles S.W.  
 b. IN 1842, Came to Hendricks Co. 1866, Pol. Republican, Friend

Smith, V., farmer, 1 mile W.  
 b. VA 1832, Came to Hendricks Co.

Stcut, B., farmer, 4 miles W.  
b. IN 1837, Came to Hendricks Co. 1871, Pol. "none", Methodist

Stout, S.B., farmer, 4 miles S.W.  
b. Hendricks Co. 1847, Pol. Republican, Methodist

Taylor, Allen, farmer, 3 miles S.W.  
b. N.C. 1813, Came to Hendricks Co. 1848, Pol. Republican, Protestant

Taylor, John E., Dry Goods & Groceries, 3 miles S.W.  
b. Hendricks Co. 1841, Pol. Independent, Methodist

Taylor, William A., farmer, 3 miles S.  
b. Hendricks Co. 1850, Pol. Republican, Protestant

Thompson, Thomas, farmer, 1½ miles S.  
b. N.C. 1826, Came to Hendricks Co. 1870, Pol. Democrat, Protestant (Methodist)

Turner, John J., farmer, ½ mile S.  
b. N.C. 1847, Came to Hendricks Co. 1869, Pol. Democrat, Protestant

Turner, J. T., farmer  
b. N.C. 1849, Came to Hendricks Co. 1871, Pol. Democrat, Regular (Primitive) Baptist

Ward, J.H., farmer, 4 miles S.W.  
b. IN 1838, Came to Hendricks Co. 1872, Pol. Republican, Methodist

Ward, R.H., carpenter & builder, 1 mile S.W.  
b. IN 1838, Came to Hendricks Co. 1872, Pol. Republican, Protestant

Williams, John E., farmer, 3 miles S.W.  
b. Hendricks Co. 1852, Pol. Republican, Friend

Williams, Solomon, farmer, 3 miles S.W.  
b. N.C. 1813, Came to Hendricks Co. 1848, Pol. Republican, Friend

York, Acquilla, farmer, 2 miles W.  
b. N.C. 1818, Came to Hendricks Co. 1831, Pol. Democrat, Methodist

York, Jonas, farmer, 5 miles W.  
b. Hendricks Co. 1833, Pol. Democrat, Missionary Baptist

York, Nathan, farmer, 2 miles N.W.  
b. N.C. 1819, Came to Hendricks Co. 1831

York, Tyson, farmer, 3 miles  
b. N.C. 1827, Came to Hendricks Co. 1831, Politics and Religion - would not tell.

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