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HENDRICKS COUNTY

HISTORY BULLETIN



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THE HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
DANVILLE, INDIANA

HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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OFFICERS 1986

PRESIDENT

Betty Bartley
R R 6, Box 213
Danville, IN 46122
Tel. 745-2828

VICE PRESIDENT

Miss Libbe Hughes
85 Cartersburg Road
Danville, IN 46122
Tel. 745-4833

SECRETARY

Miss Jewell Bell
212 East Road 200 N
Danville, IN 46122
Tel. 745-4055

TREASURER

Mrs. Blanche Wean
249 S. Wayne St.
Danville, IN 46122
Tel. 745-2573

HISTORIAN

Mrs. H. Harold Templin
R. R. 2, Box 86
Danville, IN 46122
Tel. 539-4311

PUBLICITY

Miss Jewell Bell
212 East Road 200 N
Danville, IN 46122
Tel. 745-4055

GENEALOGISTS

Miss Grace Cox
494 West Clinton St.
Danville, IN 46122
Tel. 745-2552

Mrs. Roy Pritchard
R. R. 1, Box 454
Clayton, IN 46118
Tel. 539-6890

Mrs. Roy Fisher
Pittsboro, IN 46167
Tel. 892-4780

Mrs. H. Harold Templin
R. R. 2, Box 86
Danville, IN 46122
Tel. 539-4311

HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS

Danville Public Library
101 S. Indiana
Danville, IN 46122
Attention: Betty Bartley
Tel. 745-2604

Plainfield Public Library
Guilford Twp. Historical Collection
1120 Stafford Road
Plainfield, IN 46168
Attention: Susan Miller Carter
Tel. 839-6602

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Margaret Baker
(Mrs. C. Rawleigh Baker)
9 Round Hill Road
Danville, IN 46122
Tel. 745-2115

"The sense of the richness of the American past improves the intelligence of the choices we make about the American future. History is to the nation what memory is to the individual. Without memory, the individual would be absolutely rudderless."

Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr.
Noted historian

Hello!

Fall is upon us and winter is fast approaching. Am I the only one left wondering what happened to summer?

The coming months are perhaps the busiest of the entire year. The Museum needs lots of help to prepare for their Christmas openhouse and the Society has several publications for sale which would make perfect Christmas gifts for friends and family.

Of course, it is also time to start planning for the coming year. Nineteen eighty-seven will be the 20th anniversary of the "reorganized" Hendricks County Historical Society! If we make plans for the 20th anniversary that just leaves five years until the next celebration! Please pass along any ideas for next year's activities to the officers.

I hope to see you all at the November meeting in the "new" Plainfield Public Library. Thank you for your continued support and enthusiasm.

Libbe

AUGUST MEETING

A crowd of approximately 65 persons attended our meeting in the Brownsburg Public Library Sunday, August 3rd. After a welcome by president Betty Bartley, Harold Templin gave devotions based on the theme "How Old Are You?" His talk was hilarious at times as well as solemn ... he gave us something to think about.

After the usual business was reported and discussed, Betty Bartley introduced Debby Burns whose restored home was used in the filming of the movie, HOOSIERS. In her interesting talk, she detailed steps from the beginning, the note left in the door expressing interest in using their house to the complete redoing of the house for the movie to the cleaning up and restoring afterwards. She told of how the road to her house was barricaded and how the barricade was enforced by the Indiana State Police. She brought many pictures and other memorabilia accumulated during the process. It was a most interesting talk and we all look forward to seeing the movie when it appears here soon.

Ladies of Brown and Lincoln Townships, headed by Mary Ann Moore served refreshments which were enjoyed during the social hour.

NOVEMBER MEETING

We are assured another excellent program November 2, when Ida Mae Good Miller will give us the story of THE PLAINFIELD AND CARTERSBURG GRAVEL ROAD COMPANY. Bet you didn't know there was such a company, did you? Well you can be sure that Ida Mae will have it researched thoroughly and will tell it to us in an interesting way. We will meet at 2 P.M. in the new Plainfield Library which will be almost, but not quite, ready for company. Every book may not be in place, but I am sure they will have comfortable accommodations for us and we can all look forward to getting a peek at the new addition.

COME AND BE READY TO ENJOY!

Read this - it will make you determine not to miss the November meeting!

ABOUT A MAN AND A ROAD

Samuel Little (1810-1903) was an early settler in Guilford Township and an enterprising man. He came to Hendricks County in 1830 with his father, Judge Alexander Little, from Mercer County, Kentucky. Samuel and his young bride, Rebecca Green of Washington County, Indiana, settled on a farm one mile west of Plainfield and reared seven children.

Beginning with his term as president of the directors of the Plainfield and Cartersburg Gravel Road Company in 1878, an account of the Proceedings of the President and Directors of the company were kept by Hiram A. L. Green, secretary. The book details actions of the directors, the issuance of stock certificates and subsequent transfers thereof, annual lists of stockholders, and accounts of monies paid out for road maintenance, county taxes, and even repairs for damaged carriages and wagons!

In a separate account book that Samuel Little kept, he tallied the weekly collection from each of the toll attendants.

Both of these handwritten ledgers are in the Guilford Township Historical Collection of the Plainfield Public Library where Ida Mae Miller has researched material for her program before the Hendricks County Historical Society on Sunday, November 2nd, at 2:00 p.m.

The Guilford Township Historical Collection is rich in these Samuel Little items because several of his descendants donated them. Marshall Davis, a great-great-grandson, placed the account book there. Esther Edmondson Johnson, a great-great-granddaughter donated a photograph which shows Samuel Little's family gathered at his 86th birthday celebration on April 26, 1896, at his South Center Street home in Plainfield. Mary Bouse Shumaker, another great-great-granddaughter, from Texas contributed a picture of the building of the bridge over the west fork of White Lick Creek when it was part of the Gravel Road Company. The book of Proceedings was a recent gift from the estate of Adah Jones Johnson.

Descendants of Samuel Little who still live in Hendricks County are especially invited to attend the meeting next Sunday. Members and their friends will enjoy learning more about this remarkable man and the road on which he lived most of his life.

ORNAMENT CONTEST

NOTE: I especially urge Hendricks County Historical Society members to become involved in the contest. Make sure our county is well represented!

Susan Carter

Hendricks County residents can express their pride in their hometowns and heritage by designing ornaments for the "Indiana State Christmas Tree." The Indiana State Museum is sponsoring the third annual ornament contest and county residents are urged to compete.

A giant 12-foot Christmas tree is the focal point of the ISM's decorations for the holiday season and demonstrates the Christmas spirit Hoosiers share.

Susan Carter, Hendricks County Historian, of the Plainfield Public Library, will be accepting entries for the contest. The three winning ornaments from Hendricks County will be sent to Indianapolis, where they will be displayed on the tree.

The design of the ornaments should illustrate a particular theme or trait of Hendricks County's natural, cultural, historical and/or technological past, present or future. Ornaments must be hand-made, not from kits. Natural ornaments are encouraged using items native to the county. It is suggested that the ornaments be no larger than 6" wide by 6" long by 6" thick and weigh no more than five ounces. Each ornament should be labelled with the county's name in an attractive manner.

Ornaments will be judged on the following criteria: appearance, interpretation of a theme about Hendricks County, creativity, and the labelling method for the county's name.

Entry forms may be picked up at the Plainfield Public Library, 1120 Stafford Road, Plainfield, IN 46168. Interested persons may send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Susan Carter at the above address and an entry form will be sent by return mail.

Deadline for entries is Wednesday, November 19 and all entries must be brought to the Plainfield Public Library by 5:00 p.m. that day.

After the ornaments are judged, winners will be announced and the three top winning ornaments will be displayed at the Indiana State Museum, November 28 through January 1, 1987. Winning ornaments will be sent back to the contestants or, if they wish, their ornaments can become a part of the museum's working collections to be used for future Christmas decor.

Winning ornaments will also be displayed in cases at the Indiana State House for two weeks in January during the 1987 Indiana Legislative Session. Winners names and counties will be labelled next to their ornaments.

The Indiana State Museum, 202 North Alabama St., is open free seven days a week, with free parking north of the museum. Museum hours are Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., Sunday 12 noon to 4:45 p.m.

For more information about the contest, contact Susan Carter at 839-6602.

BOOKS FOR SALE

Christmas is just around the corner! So why not start your shopping early from the Society's list of publications. You can choose the perfect gift for that special someone and benefit the Society at the same time!

History of Hendricks County, Indiana, 1914-1976

Edited by John R. McDowell

A compilation of historical material and biographical profiles written by the people of Hendricks County. Published by the Hendricks County Historical Society, Danville, Indiana. October, 1976.

Hardbound. 640 pages. Illustrated. PRICE: \$26.25, tax included

Complete Index of The History of Hendricks County, 1914-1976

Edited by John R. McDowell, indexed by Ruth Dorrell with the assistance of Carolyn Kellum and others. December 1977.
Softbound. 62 pages. PRICE: \$2.10, tax included

(PRICE FOR THE HISTORY AND INDEX, \$28.35, tax included)

Prairie Farmer's Directory of Hendricks County, Indiana, 1920

Includes directories of the farmers, breeders, automobile owners, tractor owners of the county, along with valuable and interesting information.
REPRINT, 1985. Softbound. 230 pages. Includes advertising.
MEMBER'S PRICE: \$14.00, tax included. NONMEMBER'S PRICE: \$18.00, tax included.

Atlas of Hendricks County, Indiana, to which is added various general maps, history, statistics, illustrations, &c&c&c. Chicago, J. H. Beers & Co., 1878.

Includes biographies, portraits, illustrations of farms; a very fascinating and informative book.
REPRINT, 1986. Softbound. 50+ pages. Maps. (Reduced in size to 11 x 14 inches)
MEMBER'S PRICE: \$14.00, tax included. NONMEMBER'S PRICE: \$18.00, tax included.

Honoring Our Heritage in Hendricks

By Ruth Mitchell Pritchard. Hendricks County Sesquicentennial Committee, Danville, Indiana 1974. This booklet explains the stories behind the 14 drawings which appear on the Hendricks County Ancestor-Descendant Certificates issued during the County's Sesquicentennial Celebration. The drawings are representative of the county and the various aspects of home, church, school, government, travel, industry, business, occupation, and even tragedy and adversity.
Softbound. 43 pages. Illustrated. PRICE: \$2.63, tax included.

For ordering information, call:

Susan Carter, Plainfield Public Library, (317) 839-6602

Or you may write to L. K. Hughes, 85 Cartersburg Rd., Danville, IN 46122

QUERIES

TOUT ... Am seeking contacts with any folks related to or acquainted with Tout family. Touts settled in Hendricks County about 1833, were still there 1900's. My great grandfather, Thomas M., was born in Hendricks County 1833. Came to Ky. 1858.

Robert Tout
2815 Moorefield Rd.
Carlisle, KY 40311

Would like to contact descendants of James Patterson. b. 3 May 1826 NJ, d. 21 Mar. 1893 Brown Twp., Hendricks Co., IN, m. 1st 5 Sept. 1852 IN-Mary Jane Brown, b. 11 Nov. 1830, d. 31 Mar 1870, IN, issue: Joseph, Elmy, Leidda Ann, Nancy Jane, Mary Allis, Charles Wesley and Emma Florence.. m. 2nd 17 Dec. 1871 IN - Harriet E. Tomlinson, b. 9 July 1840. d. 4 July 1879, IN. issue: Ollie Murtle & George. m. 3rd. 9 June 1883 IN - Cynthia Jane Griggs Thompson. b. 20 Dec. 1853 KY, d. 2 Jan. 1947, IN issue: Leona, Minnie Ann, Daniel and Samuel.

James settled in Brown Twp. of Hendricks Co. about 1847. Was he the son of William M. and Rebecca Patterson? I have his Family Bible (printed 1873) which has births and some death and marriage dates.

Marcia J. Smith
3213 Patton Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46224

OBITUARY

What follows is an obituary from The Republican newspaper of January 3, 1895. Admittedly, 'tis not what a true genealogist hungers for, but it certainly has its merits.

"Carlo's Gone.

Charley Hogate mourns the death of his favorite dog, Carlo, well known to the citizens of the east end as the bravest dog behind his own fence that ever nipped a fly and the most home-loving dog in the world when danger threatened. It is believed he could open his mouth the widest and make less noise when he barked than any animal outside of a museum. He was a harmless dog and had reached a venerable age for a dog and although of French descent was not at all given to a fast life but was always sedate and dignified. He became helpless last week and his last days were possibly shortened a little by chloroform."

MUSINGS FROM THE MUSEUM

The museum was open both days during "Swap and Shop", annual street fair in Danville. We had several visitors on Saturday, but the rain came around noon on Sunday and brought everything to a halt.

Among the acquisitions received was a phonograph. It is a real-for-sure-wind-up type. The other one we had was returned as it was on loan. This one was played off and on all day during Swap and Shop Saturday. We have an extensive collection of very nice records. Another acquisition was a quilt all set up in quilting frames. The invitation is out for quilters to drop by and quilt a few stitches. Make that several if you wish for we won't keep count.

Eighty-five pupils from the elementary schools in Plainfield visited the museum on October 6. They were accompanied by their teachers.

Ancestor certificates are still available. Grace Cox will be glad to talk it over with those who would like to get some.

The "Friends of the Museum" membership drive is in progress. It is \$1, junior membership \$2, individual, \$3 family and \$5 sustaining. Something for everyone!

The Historical Society lost a very dear old friend recently. Those who help with the bulletins will remember the spool of twine that we used for so long. It had dwindled until it could dwindle no more. It gave up the day we assembled the April bulletins. We had the spool close to 15 years so we couldn't say anything. But, like all old friends, we hated to see it go.

Several of you have noticed the wind chimes hanging over the gift shop and military room doors. If you are interested, you should contact Jack and Florence Obenchain, Pittsboro. They make them.

SOUNDS FROM THE MUSEUM

Just stand in the hall and listen to sounds coming in from all over. "Its been a long time since I saw one of those". Or, "Oh we used to have one of those and it may still be around for all I know." What's this?" "Ooh, that beautiful staircase!" Someone else might comment on how would it be for sliding down. Comments from upstairs are heard. But it is in the basement that sounds really get going. "Hey, this is neat!" "What is this?" And before the person is finished speaking, the pal will tell them, "Hey, put that down, you'll break it". Somebody rings the sheep bell. The corn sheller starts up. Kids have more fun with that but if they had to shell some as a regular chore it would get to be old stuff. Someone else is trying out the boy scout bugle. And all the giggles! Loud and clear comes "Oogah". Someone found the Model "T" Ford horn. More giggles. There is one horn that hasn't been tried as yet. Maybe it is because it is mounted high on the wall. We are referring to the stage coach horn. Its sound is said to carry quite a distance. When the stage coaches were used there wasn't the noise there is today. Even the "wonk" of the diesel horns today don't command as much attention as they once did.

Jewell

The following article was written by Shelley Phillips, a 16 year old student at Cascade High School, after a visit to the Museum. At Maynard Noland's suggestion, we persuaded her to let us print it. We welcome contributions by our young historians. She got an A on it.

THE HENDRICKS COUNTY MUSEUM

If you go into Danville on South Washington Street, you will see a building right next to the County Superior Court that would be worth visiting. It is the Hendricks County Museum built in 1866. The original stone steps have been covered with concrete because they became dangerously slick from use.

Before 1974 the building that now houses the museum was the Hendricks County Jail and sheriff's residence. The cells in the lower level are a grim reminder of the building's past use. This jail was the first built in Center Township.

When you first enter the museum there is a gift shop in a room on the left. Throughout the house are mannequins wearing beautiful dresses from different eras. The rooms in the house contain furniture and implements used over the course of several generations. These display rooms are: the parlor, the military room, the kitchen, the lower level jail, upstairs bedrooms, bathrooms, a room containing information on Central Normal College of Danville, and the basement rooms of crafts/business, farming tools, storage, and court information.

The jail section was divided into two main areas: the women's area and the men's area. The adult section on the north side of the building housed eight adult male prisoners and two female adult prisoners. In 1966 a juvenile section

and small radio room, now the Hendricks County Superior Court, were added to the south side of the building. It held six inmates and was located on the opposite side of the women's cells. The women's area was used only in emergencies because of its dilapidated condition.

The cell block contained steel bunks which came with mattresses and blankets. The inmates could wear only their own clothing and left their personal property and cash in the sheriff's custody. The clothes were usually washed at the jail.

There were many problems which hampered the effectiveness of the jail. Although built of brick, stone, and steel, there were problems of poor lighting and insufficient plumbing. Only six showers, six wash basins, and six toilets were provided in the cell area. The City of Danville supplied water and a sewage disposal system. Several prisoners are shown as escaping in the jail registers even though the locks and levers of the doors were kept in good condition.

Between 1962 and 1972 a total of 5,781 prisoners had been detained in the jail. Sixty-five percent of these prisoners were males from Marion County. When the new jail opened these figures increased.

The Hendricks County Historical Society was granted the use of the building for the Hendricks County Historical Museum. This is a good place to go to find out many things about your heritage if your family is from Hendricks County.

LITTLE LEAGUE IT WASN'T BACK THEN

(Taken from THE GRANDMA BOOK II)

Many of us with a rural background remember, with nostalgia, the many original ways we found to play when we were kids. The country school playground, for instance, was one arena where we fought and sweated through lively ball games, with each player a self-appointed coach and umpire.

There may have been few actual skills perfected, but no one sat it out on the benches.

Because of the small enrollment at the one-room school that my sisters and I attended, it was impossible to form teams to play regular ball games. Rather, ours was a game called "scrub" in which every child was allowed to play, rotating through the fielders' positions until taking her or his turn to bat. A batter, when put out, was moved to the field position again and everyone advanced.

Noon hours offered welcome release from books. On a typical summer day, after sandwiches (snatched from lard or syrup pails) had been consumed, we raced to the playground, screaming instructions to one another. Of course it was the older students who had the final word as to who would be the first to bat, and I doubt that justice always prevailed.

For us "little kids" the time dragged while the "big kids" repeatedly batted and raced around the bases. But eventually, weary from chasing balls in the field, we, too, worked our way up to home plate. Swinging a narrow board (in lieu of a proper bat), we often missed the fast balls thrown by an older child.

"You're out!" shouted the pitcher. If I protested, "I'd hear the chant:

"Jean is mad and I am glad
and I know how to tease her!
A bottle of ink to make her stink
and that is how to please her!"

There was no arguing with the all-powerful big kids, the "elite". Hot and humiliated, we could only remove ourselves to the outfield and once more begin the cycle.

During all of a country year in days gone by, we kids always found abundant fun to keep us busy.

Back home from school, with puppies and kittens to play with and horses to ride, we suffered from no lack of entertainment. We learned to ride at an early age, but there also was excitement in doing the unexpected, such as riding the milk cows or grabbing the tail of a steer as he galloped at a fast clip around the barnyard.

Climbing was always a challenge, too. If we took a good run at it, the roof of the chicken house could be gained from the peak of the adjacent granary roof. This put us in easy access of a shed.

The fact that this shed had no proper roof (only boards layered with straw) didn't make it out of bounds to us young, "experienced" climbers.

From an overhead beam in the barn we strung a rope for a swing. But far more unique was our teeter-totter. An old oxen yoke turned upside down and hung by a chain from the beam suited our purpose perfectly. The grooves that had been rounded to fit the neck of the oxen became comfortable seats.

Growing up seemed to be a slow process for me, so that even in my teens I continued to invent games and fun. I still smart at the memory of one country barn dance, when I foolishly slid down a rope hanging from the loft floor to show off. The pain I suffered from the rope burns on the palms of my hands was an effective deterrent to repeating that form of entertainment.

Yet, old habits die hard. Recently, after watching young people swing out from a tree platform, over a stream and back several times, I grabbed the rope and followed suit. Even in my 60's, I still believe in spontaneous fun!

Certainly, much credit is due the people who organize sports for young people and who volunteer their services in directing and coaching various activities.

For farm children and their parents, however, the time and effort involved in participating in athletic events can result in grueling schedules and fractured togetherness.

And I wonder if, perhaps, young people might prefer (and even benefit from) a little less pushing in this direction. Surely there is something to be said for the "unorganized" fun we used to know so well.

TO BETTY

By this time, readers must surely be aware that Betty Bartley, our most efficient and capable president, has not been able to help us in preparing THE BULLETIN. Family illness has taken all her concerns and energies.

It is quite evident that THE BULLETIN suffers without her excellent articles. We all join in hoping the situation will soon improve and that she will be back at the Indiana Room at the Danville Public Library and at the helm of the Historical Society.

We miss you, Betty, and we need you!

