

H
977,253
11498

HENDRICKS COUNTY

HISTORY BULLETIN



VOLUME ~~XIX~~ 18

NUMBER IV

NOVEMBER 1987
PUBLISHED BY

THE HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
DANVILLE, INDIANA

HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

ORGANIZED 1967

OFFICERS 1987

PRESIDENT

Betty Bartley
1223 S 450 W
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

Janet Woodrum
R R 1, Box 28
Lizton, Indiana 46149
Tel. 994-5759

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

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

HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS

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

Plainfield Public Library
Guilford Twp. Hist. Col.
1120 Stafford Rd.
Plainfield, IN 46168
Attn: Susan Miller Carter
Tel. 839-6602

Hendricks County Hist. Museum
Danville, IN 46122
Open Tues & Sat 1 - 4 P.M.
For further information call
(317) 745-4055 or 852-2810

ANNUAL DUES \$3.00 PAYABLE IN NOVEMBER

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
Danville, IN 46122
Tel. 745-2115

Life is no brief candle to me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got hold of for the moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on down to future generations.

--- George Bernard Shaw

Greetings!

The Hendricks County Historical Society faces 1988 with the grim realization that our burden has become heavier. It is with sadness that we note the passing of one of our most valuable members, Ruth Pritchard. Ruth, who was always so energetic and tireless, devoted herself to the Hendricks County Historical Society and to the preservation of our county's heritage. Whether it was transcribing a cemetery or researching a ghost town, Ruth was ever efficient, accurate, and enthusiastic.

With over 300 members, our society can follow Ruth's example and provide strong support in researching and preserving our county's history. A little spare time can be put to excellent use volunteering at the Hendricks County Historical Museum or at one of our county's public libraries. There's always next year's programs to research and present, as well. So take a few minutes and consider how you can help our society in its ongoing efforts.

Libbe

AUGUST MEETING

THE HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY met August 2, at the SECURITY SAVINGS MEETING ROOM, Danville. In the absence of our president, Libbe Hughes presided and greeted the group. After the usual reports were given, Libbe read a thoroughly researched paper, A LOOK AT EARLY INDIANA PAPERS which was most interesting and will be quoted in this bulletin. In addition, she had prepared a fascinating display of old papers, and advertisements of drug stores, livery stables and dry goods stores. It was an excellent program, followed by a social hour prepared by the ladies of Middle, Lincoln and Brown Townships.

NOVEMBER 1ST MEETING

John C. Miller of Plainfield will present the results of his research on the life of William Temple Hornaday, naturalist, at the November meeting of the Hendricks County Historical Society. The meeting will be held at the Plainfield Public Library at 2:00 p.m., Sunday, November 1.

William T. Hornaday was born December 1, 1854 near Plainfield, in Washington Township of Hendricks County. The son of William and Martha Varner Hornaday, he was born on the family farm which is now part of Prestwick development.

Hornaday spent much of his childhood in Iowa. His early visits back to Indiana were to his grandfather Ezekiel Hornaday's farm, now owned by Dr. and Mrs. Robert McDougal. Central Indiana, as well as Iowa, had a great influence on his early and continued interest in wildlife.

Destined to become a nationally recognized naturalist, conservationist and taxidermist, Hornaday began his career in taxidermy at Ward's Establishment, Rochester, New York. Later, he served as chief taxidermist at the National Museum, Washington, D.C.

A founder of the Washington Zoo, he was also the Director of the New York Zoological Park, New York City. The author of over 20 published books, primarily on the subjects of wildlife and conservation, Hornaday also wrote and published poetry and temperance and patriotic material.

Hornaday was a frequent contributor to the popular magazines of the day. He often wrote for "The Mentor," a self-improvement journal published twice a month by the Mentor Association. He served on the advisory board of the association which was headquartered in New York City.

While researching at the Library of Congress, Miller discovered a copy of Hornaday's unpublished autobiography which includes a section entitled "My Love Story." In it, Hornaday wrote engagingly of his courtship and marriage to Josephine Chamberlain in 1879.

William T. Hornaday died March 6, 1937 at Stamford, Connecticut at age 82.

The public is invited to attend the meeting of the Hendricks County Historical Society to learn more about this famous county native.

MUSINGS FROM THE MUSEUM

Since the last meeting the museum has received an assortment of items necessary to run a business. Included is a cash register, an adding machine, packages of tapes for both cash register and adding machine. Also there is a sewing machine needle box like we used to see some years ago. There was a box of assorted needles and bobbins.

There is an assortment that includes a quilt and a lap-robe and clothing, some Danville school yearbooks - 1911, 1921 and 1924, a CNC yearbook, a handwritten detailed account several pages long of a Civil War veteran who had lived for a while in Hendricks County, there is memorabilia from a club and a sorority.

The museum had a booth at the "Olde Fashioned Fall Festival" at Brownsburg on September 19. Included was the ever popular "whatsis" board. All the materials used were from Brownsburg originally.

The wind became a nuisance and kept the attendants busy, but nothing was damaged.

The flower bed got a new lease on life - for awhile at least. It was cleaned off and new plants were set out.

The museum was open during Swap & Shop, Oct. 10 - 11. There was a nice attendance. A light rain dampened the festivities on Saturday but Sunday was nicer.

Jewell Bell

ANOTHER TOUR OF THE MUSEUM

We've seen the library and parlor, let's take a good look at our entrance hall.

When we open the front door we notice the tall ceilings. That is something we'll notice in all the downstairs except in the work area (jail kitchen) and those ceilings are even taller. It is believed to be made of patterned tin.

Behind the front door is a hall tree. Hall closets were almost unheard of then. The building was started in 1866. Investigation of the hall tree shows an assortment of shawls. One shawl is crocheted and is made circular. Another is a fine heavy silk. There are hats, bonnets, all from a by-gone era. We, have as you notice, wind chimes hanging from two door ways. Between the two south doors, holding the guest book, is an old pulpit. The pulpit was from the old building across the street from the museum. The church at the time this pulpit was used was a Methodist Episcopal Church and was in a building prior to the building now standing. Let's close the door that leads to the workroom and the nether regions (jail cells) and basement. Here's a map of Hendricks County dating 1865. We'll turn on the light and you need a magnifying glass. It is interesting to compare then and now. There are towns, now long gone, that were flourishing communities then. It is interesting to see who owned familiar territory then. The door we encounter leads into a little hallway. From there we can go into the work room (the old jail kitchen) or into the jail cells or to the basement. On the right of the doorway and along the stairway we notice a cabinet or buffet if you prefer, that was made by a cabinet maker here in the county. The drawers won't interchange and they must be put back the way they come out. It is a beautiful piece of furniture! Now, all this time no doubt you have noticed the beautiful stairway. Once in a while someone is heard to ask just how it would be for sliding down. It wasn't any of the younger generation, either! They sounded as if they had some experience. The next two doors lead into the restored kitchen and the parlor. The flooring on the street floor is oak. Upstairs is some sort of hardwood. The basement, of course, is concrete.

Jewell

HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS LIST

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

Publications offered by the STULTZ COMPUTING SERVICES, Carol Stultz

165 N SR 75

Danville, IN 46122

FEDERAL CENSUS NOW COMPLETED:

1850 Brown County, Indiana \$15.00

1850 Jackson County, Indiana 18.00

1810 Pulaski & Rockcastle, KY..... 12.00

Other census will follow later

This is a hands on genealogy tool and is set up with an entire alphabetical index of the census along with the census being printed just as the census taker had taken it.

WE WELCOME NEW GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

The COUNTY SEAT GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY - PRIMARY SOURCES was formed April 23, 1987, as a means of promoting and aiding research in the field of genealogy. Our primary aim is to "copy" primary source records and use them as the basis of our

quarterly publication, COUNTY SEAT SCRAPS.

Excerpts of records which will appear in the publication are: wills, deeds, probate records, marriage records, miscellaneous records, mortgage records, immigration and naturalization records, estray records, original land entries and any other available county records. We will also occasionally publish records from other areas, as they become available to us. We also plan to "surprise" our subscribers once in a while with an occasional "old" recipe or some other froth to lighten up the pudding!

Membership to COUNTY SEAT GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY - PRIMARY SOURCES is open to all. Annual dues are \$12.00, beginning and ending January 1 of each year. The publication of the society, COUNTY SEAT SCRAPS, is free to all members and will accept free queries of 50 words from members. Queries may be submitted one at a time, 50 words per issue, or more than one query may be submitted together not to exceed the remainder of subscription. Name and address are not counted as words. Each additional word over 50 will be at the rate of four cents per word. Three hundred words for \$5.00.

Each group of numbers or letters which is surrounded on both sides by spaces count as a single word. Punctuation marks are accepted as "free". Hyphenated words count as one word. Dates, such as day, month and year, are three words. Two word States count as one word (such as North Carolina).

Deadlines for queries are first of October for the January issue, first of January for the April issue, first of April for the July issue and the first of July for the October issue.

While our primary records search will be Hendricks County, Indiana, records, we will also submit records from other counties from time to time. It is our desire to use primary records as our main source of information, but we will not limit ourselves to this practice exclusively.

This organization is non-profit and we reserve the right to edit and/or reject material that may be unsuitable for our publication. We cannot accept responsibility for incorrect information.

Dues are payable in advance by check or money order. No stamps or cash, please. Pay to Treasurer, Jean Day, please.

James Cummins, Prs.
229 S. Jefferson
Danville, IN 46122

Carol Stultz, Sec.
165 N SR 75
Danville, IN 46122

Kathern Ewing, VP
119 N. Washington
Danville, IN 46122

Mr. Bill Day
52 W. Broadway
Danville, IN 46122

Jean Day, Treas.
52 W. Broadway
Danville, IN 46122

Patricia Cox, Ed.
310 Urban Street
Danville, IN 46122

IN MEMORIAM

Every member of our society was saddened to learn of the death of Ruth Critchard. She has given so much of herself to us that she will be sorely missed, not only for her many contributions to THE BULLETIN but for her cheery presence at all our meetings. We share the grief of her family and extend to them our deepest sympathy.

A LOOK AT EARLY HENDRICKS COUNTY NEWSPAPERS

(This paper, by Libbe Hughes, was so very interesting,
we want to share it with our readers.)

When I volunteered to give this program last December, I fully intended to introduce you to the humor in early Hendricks county newspapers. Comic pages being an invention of the last few decades, cartoons, excepting those of a political nature, are virtually nonexistent in 19th century newspapers. Humor in these papers is not visual, but rather in the form of stories or anecdotes.

However, I quickly came to two realizations. First, there is a massive volume of material to work with. Weekly newspapers published all over the county on newsheet larger than that currently used today, running four to twelve pages in length, no photographs, small ads and print, and lots of local material. I was forced to narrow my research immediately, so I chose to restrict myself to those papers published in Danville for a couple of reasons. The Danville papers, because they originated in the county seat, are county-oriented. They contain as much information about surrounding towns as they do about Danville. Also, the circulation of these papers was much higher, their influence more widespread than the newspapers from Plainfield or Coatesville.

My second realization comes from helping other researchers. Most genealogists and local historians use our early newspapers; to locate an obituary, a real estate transfer, or an application for a marriage license, but few ever read them. Even fewer researchers read them in context--a run of six weeks, six months, or a year. Newspapers may be independent pieces of work, but their greatest value is derived from a run. I felt that my efforts would be better expended in an attempt to introduce you to our early county newspapers, to show how their contents matured. And because humor is an integral part of the papers, I've included that as well.

Most historians will agree that a photograph is vision. It gives us a glimpse into another age--by the physical aspect of what appears in the photo, and by the way the picture is framed by the camera. It gives us an indication of how the taker saw his subject and what he considered to be important. If you agree that photographs provide vision, it logically follows that newspapers and diaries provide voice. Through them, we can hear the thoughts and conversations of a past age. Voice and vision, sight and sound--the combination gives us greater insight.

Diaries are not usually within the public domain. By their very nature, they are intimate sounds, full of abbreviations, nicknames, and lacking in accuracy. Newspapers on the other hand are practically public institutions. Their contents have been contributed by area residents and their influence is immediately widespread at the time of publication.

The perspective these items give us is not without its prejudices. With a photo, you can cut off the head of an obnoxious cousin you never really liked, in a dairy, you can include something nasty about the neighbor who let his hogs root through your garden, but with a newspaper, the reasoning is slightly more complex.

First, you must always remember that a newspaper is a business venture--a for profit business. A printer may be producing a paper to showcase his skill

at jobwork (jobwork being his skill at printing sale bills, stationery, and invitations) but he is still concerned with making money. You must also realize that 19th century newspapers, not unlike most periodicals today, are paid for, not by subscription fees, but by the advertisements. The ads pay for the labor, supplies, and distribution of the rag--subscription fees are the clear cut profits.

Therefore, perhaps indirectly or subconsciously, the paper assumes the prejudices of its advertisers. An editor can print only within the tolerance of his advertisers. He simply can't afford to say something libelous or derogatory about his largest advertiser's mother-in-law unless that advertiser has done him some grave injustice. Our United States Constitution provides for Freedom of the Press, certainly a grand ideal, but not a very practical one. Freedom of the Press is limited economically in the business world.

Besides biased viewpoints, information in the early papers can be notoriously inaccurate. Remember that there can often be lengthy delays before items reach the press. And the contents should be eyed with caution, even skepticism. When town gossips and sociable letter writers contribute the local items, information can be misleading, distorted, even omitted.

Technical advances in the world caused the contents of small town weekly papers to mature rapidly. In the early 1800's, weeklies, two to four pages in length, contained very small advertisements, no photographs (of course), few graphics, and an almost total dependence on local and state matters. Hendricks county being situated near Indianapolis, our papers contained a larger portion of state news than most.

By the 1850's, America was becoming a nationalized society. We were developing faster, more efficient modes of transportation, so communications became faster, and more accurate. In turn, newspapers reflected an increase in state and national news.

The 1860's and 70's brought an increase to six or eight pages. Advertisements became slightly larger, with more graphics and design work. War and campaign news were prominent items for these decades, and many battlegrounds and general's faces were presented through line drawings and engravings reproduced in the weeklies.

What most people recognize as a typical Victorian era newspaper actually developed during the latter portion of the 1800's, from the 1880's to the turn of the century. Detailed, delicate engravings, lots of prominent graphics with scrolls and filigrees, and large advertisements exemplified these decades. It became common practice for the first time to actually picture the advertised product, whether it be a corn planter, corset, or patent medicine remedy.

Subscribers began demanding larger, more attractive newspapers. Editors soon found that the large publishing houses in Chicago and New York offered an inexpensive way to increase the number of pages in their weeklies. The publishing houses developed 'patent pages' or 'ready pages' designed to extend the contents of a small paper with sheets of general, undated world-wide news. Any editor purchasing the patent pages automatically extended his paper to eight or ten pages with children's columns, articles on agriculture, science, household tips, or the latest Parisian fashions for the Amos housewife. The discerning reader likewise benefitted from the weekly serial stories (mystery, romance, or the ever-popular western adventure) and in-depth articles on great achievements such as the quest for the North Pole.

By the turn of the century, large, attractive weekly papers made the slow transition into dailies. Page numbers increased. And photographs found a place in journalism--right on the front page of almost every American newspaper. Today, we sectionalize our paper to the extreme (classifieds, business, sports, entertainment) but they are very similar to those published in the early part of the century.

To bring all of these generalizations of newspaper publishing to Hendricks county, perhaps it's best to regale you with some noteworthy selections.

To start with, the joyous announcements of weddings and births are numerous.

"Wyatt Cosner's countenance wears a fatherly expression. It's a girl."

"Auditor Hall is the happy father of a fine baby girl. Weight 8 pounds. He is doing as well as can be expected under the circumstances."

"James M. Barlow, of Washington Twp., has just been blessed with a fifth son and heir, and as a result he is exceedingly proud. It is said that he will now and then stop in the midst of his work and lay down on the ground to laugh at the prospect of having five boys to help fight the Democratic party."

"Nathan Kendall's boy will be old enough to vote in 21 years."

When publishing wedding announcements, the printer charged a small fee, usually a taste of the wedding cake. The length and generosity of the announcement depended on the quality and quantity of cake. The marriage of Dr. James W. Adams to Miss Mary J. Cox was announced with the following notice:

"Nary a cake. Despite our grief at this, however, we wish 'em muchly."

On the opposite side of the coin, there is the occasional divorce notice.

"Mr. & Mrs. John Harding have severed their marital relations. Cause: chronic cussedness on the part of the husband."

And 19th century newspapers are justly known for their obituaries. While some may be a line in length, most are paragraphs of absorbing details. It is not unusual for the paper to include the afflicted's dying words, the attending physician's medical opinion as to the cause of death, and the complete autopsy report.

My favorite obituary though, is a fine example of the editor's tact and sensitivity. In July, 1879, the Hendricks County Union reports the deaths of two people who were struck and killed by lightning near Danville. The headlines read "Launched by Lightning---Unheralded into Eternity".

The editors of the small town paper often served as the conscience of the town. They strove to maintain respectability and were not hesitant to call for social reform. And they provided a formidable crime watch program as well.

"The gentleman who left his hat in C. O'haver's watermelon patch last Saturday night can have it if he will call on Mr. O'haver."

"We would be glad to publish the names of a couple of young ladies whose conduct was supremely ridiculous and unbecoming at church last Sunday."

"Some person had better not visit a certain milkhouse too often or they might be recognized by the law."

It's noted in 1872 that "To break a pane of glass in the Court House costs a boy \$8.00."

"If you wish to see a genuine blushing, grinning, and hesitating specimen of humanity, just ask C. H. Brown how it happened that he got both his thumbs caught in a steel trap one night last week."

". . . for persons to go swimming in full view of a public highway and private residences indicates a want of self respect unbecoming any young man. Those to whom this is intended as a hint will save trouble and cost by seeking a more secluded spot before taking a plunge."

The menfolk in the county took a definite stand on the fashionable hoopskirt of the 1850's and 60's. They minced no words in ridiculing the crinoline practice, and the ladies certainly didn't keep secret their opinion. In 1857, the editor of the Butcher Knife included this note:

"Young ladies who are mad at us, because we speak of hoops in our paper, oughtn't to make ugly mouths at us on the street. It makes us feel so queer."

Entertainment was just as newsworthy in the 19th century as it is today. Large circuses visiting the area created great excitement. Ofttimes, the large ads for the upcoming show would be followed the next week with bitter comments regarding the age of the elephants, the lion's mange, and the bear's noticable lack of teeth.

The 1870's and 80's found the county in a turmoil over the latest fad--roller skating! Rinks opened up all over the county. Parents eyed the frivolity with stern disapproval while the teenagers enjoyed themselves immensely. For once, the newspaper's view was decidedly for the sport.

"Minn, Ida and Ella, are, I understand, congratulating themselves over the advancement they have made in the science of rollerskating. It now only requires one gentlemen to hold them upon their skates."

But the contributor for the Doverdale local items maintained that the rinks were a 'disgrace to society' and were attended by social bums and deadbeats who wanted nothing more than a glimpse of the 'loveliness of the female form'.

Naturally, the county and state fairs were great cultural events. Hendricks county residents attended the county fair with great expectations. It is noted in the 1873 Hendricks County Union that at the county fair "the balloon ascension was a success, 'tho it caught fire before it was ready to be loosed. The aeronaut preferred to risk his life in a balloon on fire than to face that crowd if he failed to make the ascent."

The stories recorded in these sheets of newsprint are perhaps a newspaper's greatest asset. Personal little tales, evidence of a time when people could laugh at each other and with each other with no shadow of animosity.

"Of six hundred twelve young ladies who fainted last year, more than half of them fell into the arms of gentlemen. Only three had the misfortune to fall on the floor."

"Wanted--an instrument that will count and register for one week the number of times Howard Walls says 'you are off your nest.'"

"Edward Kurtz still shies at mudholes. We don't blame him, it is a bad place to be in, especially on Sunday evenings."

"Jim Davidson and Jim Pennington couldn't agree about who should ride a horse. Pennington, instead of using the bridle to ride the horse, used it to batter Davidson's face. D. brought suit at Danville and P. laid his case before an Eel River JP. Result: Pennington's expense about \$18.00, Davidson came clear."

"The cutest saying we have heard this year was that of the young gentleman who said 'he had two sisters, and they were both girls.'"

"One Sunday morning not very long ago, Ves Jessup hitched up a wild, unbroken Texan pony to a road cart, and drove to Mooresville. Just at the edge of town the pony became frightened at a dog that ran out to bark at him, and taking the bit in his teeth, dashed down the street at the top of his speed, the dog straining every nerve to keep up. The neighboring canines took in the situation and joined in the chase, until Ves, who is of a modest and retiring disposition--not given to making ostentatious displays of himself at home, much less in a strange place--estimated that there were at least a dozen of the yelping brutes after him. As they dashed by the Friends Church, the congregation was just leaving, and the people gazed in astonishment at the novel sight, apparently not able to decide whether it was a cowboy trying to take the town or the professor of a dog show exercising his troupe. A little further on the pony kicked over the shaft, and Ves succeeded in stopping the frightened animal."

The Central Normal College column in 1879 contained this warning: "Cats, dogs, and other animals suitable for illustrations in comparative anatomy had better steer clear of the College as the medical department is out of subjects."

February, 1873, must have been a particularly hazardous month for Danville's pedestrians and a particularly amusing month for the Hendricks County Union's editor.

"Col. Nave is decidedly of the opinion that it is impossible for a man to sit down upon a flagstone with vim enough to break it. He tried the project Monday on a legal expedition to the Court House."

"Charles Soper, while ascending the slippery path that leads up to the temple of justice, last Monday morning, threw himself into all the various attitudes of a first-class contortionist; and, finally, after a sudden and adroit movement sideways--like a hog at war--succeeded in gaining the steps."

Like any other businesses, newspapers sometimes had difficulty collecting past due accounts with their subscribers. "An exchange says that a man who came very near drowning had a wonderful recollection of every incident of his life. If danger of being drowned has a tendency to sharpen a man's memory, we shouldn't regret to see about a hundred of our delinquent subscribers in water where they couldn't wade. Perhaps they would recollect that they had subscribed for the Advertiser and never paid for it."

There is one last story I would like to read to you. The article appears in the April 24, 1873, Hendricks County Union on the third page and I for one consider it quite a treasure. In its entirety it reads: "Last Friday while the

train on the Vandalia road was stopping at Coatesville, a bystander who had been a soldier in the late war, suddenly exclaimed, 'My God boys, here's old Grant!' The General hearing this came out on the platform and was immediately surrounded by a crowd who shook him heartily by the hand."

Needless to say, I was quite excited at having General US Grant in Hendricks county. However, credit goes to Jan Woodrum for pointing out to me that in 1873 Ulysses S. Grant was President of the United States after having been reelected to a second term in 1872. One of our nation's most beloved presidents makes an unplanned, unannounced stop in Coatesville and the newspaper article, published on the third page, refers to him only as General Grant. Compare that to President Reagan's recent visit.

Our county newspapers are the repositories of untold wealth. Local items from obscure little places like Needmore, Kinderhook, Pleasant Ridge, Green Valley, Tilden, Stanford, Sugar Grove, and Cherry Grove; notices of strawberry socials, new oyster bars, performances of the Danville Silver Cornet Band, the local baseball scores, the county's efforts to obtain gravel roads throughout, Danville's fight for a town clock and street lamps, the cholera epidemic, and the disastrous fires; the bygone excitements, gossips, and tragedies which serve as a balance between the familiar and the remote.

The Guilford Township Historical Society, established in the fall of 1962, held its first meeting early in 1963. During the 1987-88 program year, the Society will be celebrating its 25th anniversary.

The GTHS issues a special invitation to members of the Hendricks County Historical Society to attend GTHS meetings during the coming year. The meeting schedule is as follows:

GUILFORD TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1987 - 1988

<u>October 22, 1987</u>	7:30 P.M.	Plainfield Public Library Room C
Program - The Northwest Ordinance		Esther Carter
<u>January 28, 1988</u>	7:30 P.M.	Plainfield Public Library Room C
Program - The 25th Anniversary Celebration of the G.T.H.S.		Carolyn Kellum

March 24, 1988

7:30 P.M.

Plainfield Public Library
Room C

Program - Plainfield Tri Kappa
Delta Pi, 50th Anniversary

Debby Rhoades Rodney

Hosts

May 26, 1988

7:30 P.M.

Plainfield Public Library
Room C

Program - History of Boy
Scouting in Plainfield

Don Lamb and Bob Crews

July 28, 1988

5:30 P.M.

Picnic -

To Be Announced

Program - Farming, Yesterday
and Today

Frank Gladden

Officers of the Guilford Township Historical Society are: John C. Miller, President, Harriet R. Craven, Vice-President, Esther Stafford, Secretary, and Dorothy Carneal, Treasurer. For further information, call John C. Miller at 839-6883.

