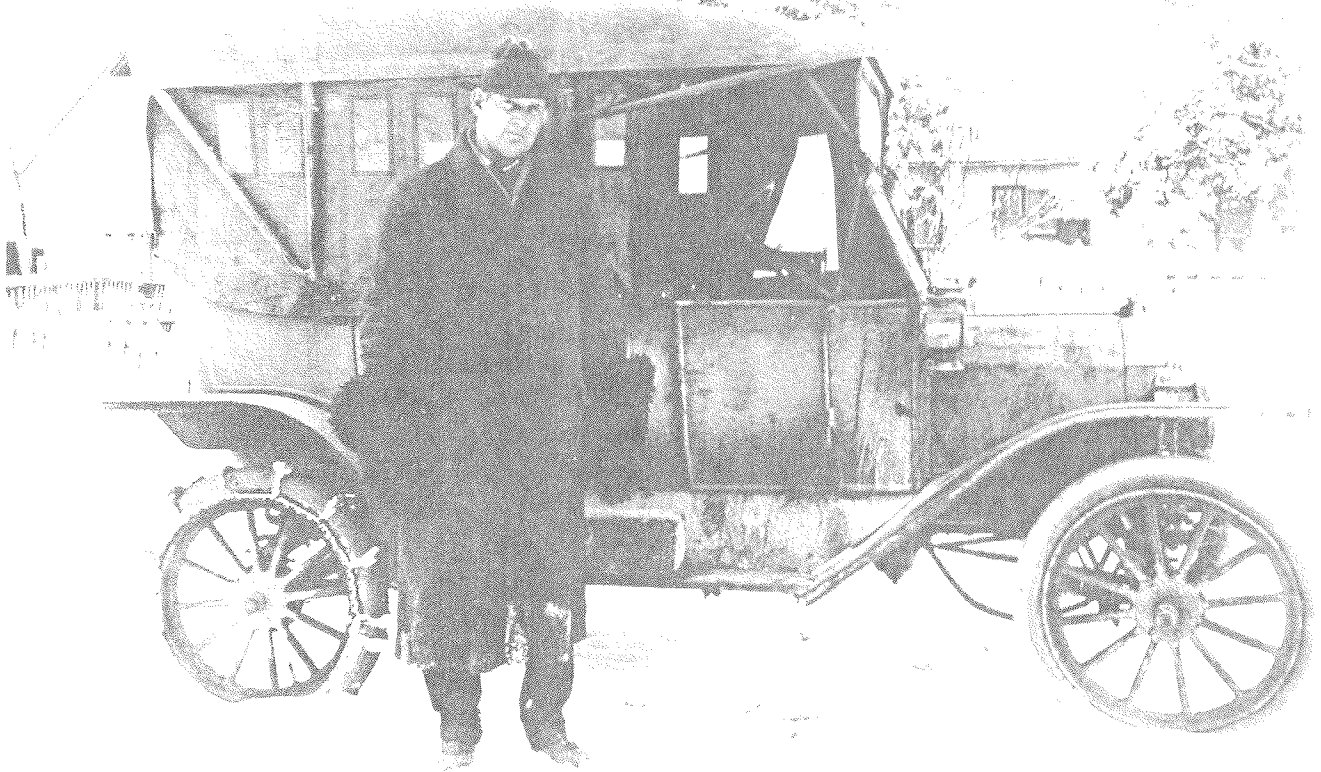


HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORY BULLETIN

Gulford Township Historical Collection
Plainfield Public Library
1120 Scafford Road
Plainfield, IN 46168
(317) 839-0602



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Historical Society

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DUES ARE DUE IN
NOVEMBER



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ORGANIZED 1967

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ON THE COVER: Dr. O. T. Scamahorn, Pittsboro physician from 1908 - 1964, making a house call around 1914. Note the fur gloves to keep his hands warm. Photo courtesy of Dr. Malcolm Scamahorn.

Help Preserve Our Local History
Join The
Hendricks County Historical Society

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's hard for me to believe, but the November meeting will mark the end of my second term as President of the Hendricks County Historical Society. We've finished some big projects but others are just off to a good start. Physically the size of the museum has doubled thanks to our County Commissioners J. D. Clampitt, Hursel Disney, and Rick Myers, but we need more volunteers so that it can continue to improve and grow.

We have had some excellent programs with speakers who have expanded our knowledge of specific areas of county history, the Bulletin has changed format, our bylaws have been updated, two projects Jeff began - the architectural survey of the county and the county flag - have been completed. The essay contest for elementary students is growing each year and hopefully more young people are becoming interested in local history. We have helped some people begin the process of listing their building on the National Register and as Hoosier Heritage homes.

The cookbook project is off to a good start. Several of you have sent in recipes but we need many, many more. We want contributions from all our members, of course, but we also are interested in receiving recipes from other people as well. I would like to appoint each of you to the "recipe-gathering" committee. This is official! Contact your friends and neighbors and the members of your clubs and tell them we need their favorite recipes and hopefully a line or two about them. I hate to single anyone out, but Mary Guthrie Allred from Hemet, California, and Audrey Martin from Danville have gotten the idea perfectly. Their contributions are printed in our "sample" booklet.

In closing, I would like to thank all of you who have helped me so much the past two years. I have yet to ask anyone to serve on a committee or accomplish a task who has refused to help. Not only have you served willingly, you have served well! More than that, the support of all of you at the time of Rick's accident was unbelievable. Without the encouragement and understanding that was extended to our family, I don't know how we could have gotten through that terrible time. Thank you so much.



AUGUST MEETING

The Hendricks County Historical Society met at the Plainfield Public Library on Sunday, August 4, 1991. Our president, Judy Pingel, welcomed the group. The secretary's report was read, and after correction, approved. The treasurer's report was given by Dorothy Kelley in the absence of Blanche Wean. Dorothy Kelley gave the museum report.

Old Business: Additional publications in the museum gift shop include the reprinted 1876 Atlas and 1920 Prairie Farmers Directory as well as a series of "new" old books that will sell for \$3.25 each. The Society's by-laws are being updated. They were read through and discussed and will be voted on at the November meeting. The new look in the Bulletin was noted.

New Business: A nominating committee consisting of Susan Miller Carter, Margaret Baker, and Mary Jeanette Winkelmann was appointed. They will present their slate at the November meeting.

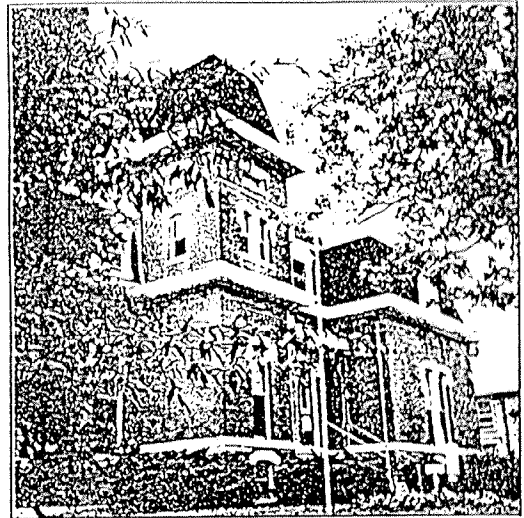
Bill Hartung, Indianapolis, gave a very interesting talk illustrated with slides on the postal system in Hendricks County. There was a question and answer period and a very interesting display table. We topped off the afternoon with refreshments by the Guilford Township ladies.

Meeting adjourned.

Judy Pingel, President
Jewell Bell, Secretary

Hendricks County Museum

The Hendricks County Historical Museum was founded in 1975 by the Hendricks County Historical Society. The purpose of the Museum is to collect, preserve, and interpret items relating to the history of Hendricks County and its people.



The Museum is located in the former Sheriff's residence and County Jail at 170 South Washington in Danville.

The two-story brick building, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is the only surviving example of Second Empire (or French Mansard) style of architecture in Hendricks County. The building was erected in 1866 and served as the County's jail until 1974.

The Museum's collection includes items relating to domestic life, agriculture, military history, education, medical history, and some prehistoric and Native American artifacts. The collection also includes many items relating to the history of Central Normal College/Canterbury College, which was located in Danville from 1878 to 1951.

The Museum is open Tuesdays from 9 to 3:30 and on Saturdays from 1 to 4.

THE BEGINNINGS OF HENDRICKS COUNTY HOSPITAL

Special thanks to Mrs. Muriel Blair of Avon for the following article. Mrs. Blair's enthusiasm and persistence were instrumental in the development of Hendricks County Hospital. Her recent efforts in recording the origins of the movement to establish a county hospital are greatly appreciated.

A SEED WAS PLANTED AND IT GREW AND GREW

On a bright blue October afternoon in 1952, I was on my way to an executive committee meeting of Hendricks County Federated Clubs. The meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Dorothy Costin (later known as Mrs. Claude Herriman). The home is now the site of Prestwick.

Driving along I was daydreaming and thinking what a waste of time. So far as I could discern, the Federation had never accomplished anything noteworthy, and I could think of so many things I could be doing at home. But because I was president of the Washington Chapter of International Travel Study Club, I was supposed to attend. As my thoughts rambled on, the thought struck me. "Why don't the women of Hendricks County get behind an effort to get a hospital in Hendricks County?"

Of course the idea was not altogether a new one. Others had spoken of the need for a hospital in Hendricks County. Two doctors, Dr. Irving Cohen of Plainfield and Dr. Ernest Price of Danville, had mentioned to me that what Hendricks County needed was a hospital. Dr. Price even showed me a drawing he had made of what he thought a hospital should be.

When I arrived at the Costin home, I said to Dorothy, who was then president of the Federated Clubs, "Why don't the women get behind an effort to get a hospital in Hendricks County?" She said; "That is a good idea. You bring it up." And so I did. During the course of the business meeting I made the proposal. Well, the first woman on her feet, wife of Dr. Cook of Danville, just poured cold water all over the idea. She told of a newly built hospital in another county that was operating in the red and lack of doctors. Others stood to say things like: "It will cost so much money, our taxes will go up. There would not be enough doctors to run a hospital. Doctors from Indianapolis would not come way out here. There are not enough nurses in Hendricks County."

Needless to say, I felt beaten but "Dauntless Dorothy" appointed a

committee to make a study of the possibility to have a hospital in Hendricks County. She named Mrs. Ora Briner, Mrs. Elva Watt and myself, and said "I will help you", and she did. Dorothy furnished all the transportation.

There was an election of officers for the next year. Faye Walton of North Salem was elected president.

The first place the Study Committee went was to the State Board of Health to learn what the requirements for a county hospital were. We made more than one trip to ask questions and get information. Where to get the money was a big problem. We learned there were federal funds available under the Hill Burton Act of Congress.

By appointment, the committee visited the Boone County Hospital in Lebanon, Indiana, known as Witham Hospital; named after a Mr. Witham who gave a large sum of money to help build the hospital.

The hospital Administrator, the Director of Nursing, and Dr. Malcolm Scamahorn of Pittsboro, who was on the Witham Hospital Staff, met with us and explained how their hospital was built. Then they took us on a tour of the hospital. Coming down on the elevator, I asked Dr. Malcolm how he felt about a hospital for Hendricks County and he said; "Oh, I'm just lukewarm".

The committee by appointment spoke to the County Commissioners about a hospital in Hendricks County. They told us it was a possibility.

In the spring of 1954, March 8th, I have a documented copy of the report I gave at the District Meeting of Federated Women's Clubs in Greencastle, Indiana, telling of all the facts we had gleaned. I was invited and spoke before several county group meetings including: Brown Township Farm Bureau; County Board of Realtors, two Danville sororities, etc. I have records of said reports.

Since we had heard nothing from Faye Walton, the president of Hendricks County Federation of Women's clubs, Dorothy Costin and I drove to North Salem to talk with Faye. She told us that the reason why she had not followed up with the idea was that so many people were opposed for fear of higher taxes. Well, our committee was at a dead end road.

But no, the idea was not dead for later that year of 1954, the Delta Rho Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority in Plainfield asked us to meet with their executive committee to tell them what we had found out. We met at the home of Mrs. Roy Hand. Mrs. Martha Gray, president of the sorority, and Mrs. Delcie Shoemaker were present. We had a pleasant afternoon taking over the possibilities of a hospital.

Mrs. Ellen Curtis, co-owner and managing editor of the Plainfield Messenger, a weekly newspaper, was our strongest supporter. Every week she had a short editorial in the Messenger full of ideas shy Hendricks County should have a hospital. I kept a scrapbook of newspaper clippings which I turned over to Mrs. Ida Miller, then Historical Librarian for the Plainfield Public Library.

On January 27, 1956 (see George Peak's history of the hospital written for the 25th anniversary celebration of the hospital) the sorority held a county-wide meeting of citizens in the Public Service Auditorium. It was bitterly cold and roads were icy and slick. It was estimated there were 300 people in attendance. Willis Connor, a prominent banker of Indianapolis, was the main speaker. I remember so well the cardboard poster setting up front on the stage which read "THINK BIG". Mrs. Martha Gray presided. There were others who spoke but I can only remember the name of one, Dr. O.T. Scamahorn, a Pittsboro physician (father of Dr. Malcolm Scamahorn).

There was an air of enthusiasm in the auditorium that night and Mrs. Gray appointed a committee of a representative from each of the twelve townships, plus a representative of businesses, medical profession, bankers, etc. I was named to represent Washington Township. This committee was known as the Hospital Planning Board.

Early in February 1956, the members of the Hospital Planning Board met in the Armory building on US 36 at the east edge of Danville, to elect officers and formulate a plan of action. Ralph Norman was elected president; Sidney Smock, vice president; Fred Shelton, treasurer; and myself, Muriel Blair, recording secretary. At the time I was working as office secretary for Mr. Norman's real estate office in Danville.

The Planning Board had a good representation of Hendricks County and several meetings were held in the Court House at Danville. I have a picture of the Planning Board taken in the Court House; several members are now deceased. The County Commissioners advised the board that there was a twenty acre tract of land at the east edge of Danville on which the hospital could be built.

On May 15, 1960, ground-breaking ceremonies were held for the hospital. I remember so well standing on a spot in a corn field where a certain part of the hospital would be. The girls of the Plainfield sorority and others had similar positions.

Late in November the County Commissioners had named the Board of Trustees for the hospital, of which Ralph Norman was chairman. Sidney Smock, the vice president of the Planning Board, assumed the duties as president of the Planning Board.

It seemed to me that duties of the Planning Board were about over and since my husband Russell was getting a bit weary of taking me to the night meetings, I turned the Secretary's book over to a Mr. Tapscott of Washington Township; an act I later regretted, since I wanted it for a history record. I phoned Mr. Tapscott to ask if he had the book. He told me he had turned it over to Mr. Smock. I was never able to reach Mr. Smock, but assumed it was in good hands. The Plainfield Historical Section of the library may have it.

A petition had to be circulated to get signatures of taxpayers in favor of the hospital. This petition to be presented to the County Commissioners. This was no problem. Mr. Lester Denny was in charge in Washington Township. I carried a petition. A few people refused to sign but an overwhelming majority were in favor.

A seed was planted and it grew. The hospital was built and it was opened in May 1962. The hospital has grown far beyond the fondest dreams of any of us who had a part in its beginning, I am sure.

(This account put in writing by
Muriel Blair, February 26, 1990.)

NOVEMBER MEETING

DR. MALCOLM SCAMAHORN, SPEAKER

Dr. Malcolm Scamahorn practiced medicine in his hometown from 1946 through 1986 after serving as a medical officer in the US Army overseas in Germany and Austria. He has been a leader in the American Medical Association and served as President of the Indiana State Medical Association and also as President of the Academy of Family Physicians. He was a consultant on the task force formulating Long Term Medical Care Policy in Washington, D.C. and following his retirement from private practice served as Medical Consultant for Blue Cross/Blue

Shield of Indiana. Always active in community, civic, and church organizations, his awards and commendations from throughout Hendricks county, the state, and the nation are numerous. Dr. Scamahorn will be talking about what he believes to be the most significant development in rural health care this century. The meeting will be at 2:00 pm Sunday, November 3, 1991, in the Pittsboro Christian Church. The church is located at 216 North Maple Street and its parking lot is directly across the street from the Pittsboro Elementary School.

HISTORIC DISTRICT TO BE FORMED

Residents of the West Main Street district in Danville have recently formed an organization to preserve the historic homes of that area.

The Main Street Historic Association of Danville has as its primary goal to promote and encourage interest in homes and their families, building, properties, history and heritage of the Danville Main Street Historic District. (The boundaries of the district are outlined in the Historic Sites and Structures Inventory Interim Report, published by the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana.)

West Main Street, which serves as a major entry into Danville, is lined with examples of mid- and late 19th century architecture. The district contains 47 homes and will be the first of its kind organized in the county. The association will be similar to those that have restored the Lockerbie Square and Chatam Arch districts in Indianapolis.

The group met on October 14 and elected the following board of directors: Craig Callahan, president; Kay Micheli, vice president; Harley Seymour, treasurer; Sue Holtzclaw, secretary; Jody McCoy; John Bailey; Betty Bartley (representing HCHS).

**DUES ARE DUE IN
NOVEMBER**

Membership in the association is open to home owners from the district, as well as former residents or anyone interested in preserving the historic heritage of the area. For further information on membership, call 745-0892.

Any Historical Society members with information on the history of any of the homes in the district are encouraged to share their information with the association. Anyone with information, or photographs of the area, can contact Craig Callahan at 745-0892 or Betty Bartley at 745-2828.

IHS Annual Conference Celebrates 175 Years of Indiana Statehood

On 11 December 1991 the state of Indiana will celebrate its 175th birthday. In recognition of this birthday, the Indiana Historical Society's seventy-third Annual History Conference will feature sessions devoted to the 175th anniversary of statehood. The conference opens on Friday, 1 November, and continues on Saturday, 2 November, at the University Place Conference Center and Hotel on the IUPUI campus, 850 West Michigan Street.

REMEMBERING APRONS

Is the wearing of aprons a lost fashion? Nowadays we see few if any. Time was that a lady wasn't dressed for home without her apron. Some were fancy (the dress ones) but most were servicable. Some aprons were even made to match their dresses.

They were meant to be snatched off if someone came to the door. If one were in the business of baking and the flour just happened to light on where an apron would be, then the apron saved the day. There were everyday aprons - the kind that dried hands, wiped away tears, mopped sweat, served as an egg basket, shooed flies, held stuff out of the garden when she forgot a

bucket, and carried in wet baby chickens that got caught in the rain and the mother wouldn't cooperate. Then there were the aprons that went visiting when the lady went to help and those all done up in lace or other fancy work. In the museum, there are aprons with drawn work, crocheted lace, even one with taffeta and velvet ribbons! Nothing had better get spilled for wash and wear hadn't come yet! Then there were the aprons worn in the grocery, meat markets, blacksmith shops, and by carpenters.

Aprons varied in style but served two purposes: keep the tools hand and keep the clothes clean. Apron pockets were just made to catch the pump handle in!

Little girls wore aprons, too. Dresses had to last. Washing wasn't done every day as it can be today. Like their mothers, they had servicable ones for everyday and some a little fancier to wear just before company came. The pinafore was cute for the little ones and mama liked it, too.

Wouldn't they have all loved permanent press?!

Jewell

HARTUNG DISSCUSSES CO. POSTAL HISTORY

Shown are just a few of the postmarks from Hendricks County that Bill Hartung, president of the Indiana Postal History Society and postmark collector discussed at the August Meeting. Mr. Hartung has also compiled a listing of all Hendricks County post offices and the dates they were in operation. We are looking forward to the proposed book on Hendricks County Postal History that Mr. Hartung is writing. The partial chart below shows a few of the many post offices that have existed here since 1825.

Nov 1887 - Nov 1887
COATESVILLE
NOV 18 1887
INDIANA

JAN 1857



Feb 1885 - Mar 1887



Dec 1885 - Apr 1886



JUL 1891



JAN 1866



| | | |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Amo | Aug 13, 1855 | Oct 5, 1859 |
| Amo | Nov 23, 1865 | |
| Avon | Nov 28, 1870 | Oct 31, 1902 |
| Avon Ct Branch | Nov 1, 1960 | |
| Belleville | Dec 29, 1831 | Oct 31, 1902 |
| Belleville Rur Sta | | Dec 27, 1963 |
| Bradshaw | Feb 26, 1894 | Nov 30, 1899 |
| Brayton | Oct 18, 1890 | Apr 3, 1891 |
| Brownsburg | Apr 25, 1893 | |
| Brownsburgh | Mar 17, 1836 | Apr 25, 1893 |
| Cartersburg | Jul 7, 1893 | |
| Cartersburgh | Oct 7, 1852 | Dec 12, 1855 |
| Cartersburgh | Jun 8, 1858 | Jul 7, 1893 |
| Center Valley | Mar 25, 1872 | Oct 31, 1902 |
| Cincinnati | Dec 10, 1852 | Jul 5, 1862 |
| Clayton | Jun 21, 1852 | Dec 27, 1963 |
| Clayton Rur Sta | Dec 27, 1963 | |
| Coatesville | Jul 28, 1851 | |
| Danville | Apr 1, 1825 | |
| Euphemia | Oct 23, 1888 | Jun 20, 1896 |
| Friendswood | Feb 27, 1868 | Oct 30, 1909 |
| Gale | Jan 20, 1882 | May 14, 1906 |

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PICTORIAL HISTORY PLANNED



This is the way the corner of Main (US 136) and Maple Street in Pittsboro looked about the turn of the century. A postcard depicting this and three other early views of Middle Township are for sale for \$.75 each or four for \$2.50. The money raised from the sale of these cards will help defray the cost of publishing a pictorial history of Middle Township.

Anyone with pictures showing scenes of Pittsboro or other

locations in Middle Township should contact Mary Jeanette Winkelmann (892-4351), Betty Niggel (892-4775) or Mary Carter (892-3762). The book will be approximately 200 pages long and will sell for about \$15.00. Representatives of the book committee will be at the November meeting with the postcards and will also collect any photographs you may submit for possible inclusion in the book.

Just a reminder--dues are payable at the November meeting or by mail to HCHS, PO Box 128, Danville, Indiana 46122.

RENEW TODAY!! PAY YOUR HCHS DUES!!

Hendricks County
Historical Society

170 South Washington Street
Danville, Indiana 46122

NON-PROFIT ORG.
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DANVILLE, IN
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Plainfield Public Library
Historical Division
1120 Stafford Road
Plainfield IN 46168

LET HENDRICKS COUNTY'S PAST
BE PART OF YOUR FUTURE -----
JOIN THE HENDRICKS COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOW