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THE HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DANVILLE, INDIANA

HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

ORGANIZED 1967

OFFICERS 1985

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

"History is the torch that is meant to illuminate the past to guard us against the repetition of our mistakes of other days."

Claude G. Bowers, Indiana Historian

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT....

I'm pleased to report that Vice-President Betty Bartley and her committee have arranged a program and meeting place for all of our upcoming meetings.

I'd like to explore ways to increase our membership and attendance and to sell the rest of our history books. The executive committee will meet soon to brainstorm ideas and the ways and means to implement those that seem most promising.

In addition, I'd like to discuss two projects which would add to our historical documentation and increase public awareness of our existence. One would be to produce a calendar displaying a historical photograph representing life in each of our townships.

The other would be to publish a small booklet containing old, colorful sayings and expressions which are seldm listed today and whose meaning may soon be lost. Examples I can think of are: "As graceful as a hog on ice" and "His comb is getting red". I'm sure many of you know of similar expressions which could be compiled into a sort of "dictionary". It would be a shame to allow these to die out. Such a booklet should be run to put together, fun to read and be popular with the public, while preserving a part of our heritage. Let me know what you think.

110 of these by Joe Davidson Page 14, Oct. 1973

See you at the February meeting.

L. Robert Carter, President

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November 4, 1984

The last 1984 meeting of our Society was held at the Brownsburg Library. Lois Crayton, president, presented Floyd Hufford, who gave a short talk. Following reports of the secretary, treasurer, and museum, and the nominating committee, Lois turned the meeting over to Robert Carter, incoming president, who, in turn introduced Ruth Pritchard, whose excellent talk was entitled TOMBSTONE STORIES. Tombstones, she told us, though inanimate objects, are keepers of memories and silent tellers of stories. The stone may be large or small, the message eloquent or simple, but they all say, "Here was a life." ... a record in stone.

Following the talk, Dorothy Kelley conducted a good old fashioned spelling bee. Sides were chosen from those who consented to participate and we dropped out one by one. (I will never forget how to spell bivouac!) The survivors were congratulated and the ladies of Brown and Lincoln Townships served cookies, punch and coffee.

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February 3, 1985

The February meeting will be held in the Circuit Court room of the Hendricks County Court House. Judge Jeffrey Boles will share information he has gathered on the history of the large mural on the south wall of the court room. The circuit court room has undergone renovation in recent years, and is one of the

most attractive features of the Court House. Wayne Coles, who has been involved with other renovation work in the Court House, will tell us of the work that has been done, and the further plans for restoring our Court House to its original beauty.

Betty Bartley, program chairman, assures us that this will be a most interesting meeting. Ladies of Center Township with Grace Cox, chairman, will be in charge of the social hour.

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1985 bids fair to be another fine year for the HCHS. Betty Bartley, program chairman has announced the following programs. Why don't you mark these dates on your calendar now, so you won't miss any of these interesting meetings.

HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1985 PROGRAM

- FEB 3 Hendricks County Court House, Danville.

 Judge Jeffrey Boles will share information he has uncovered on the mural in the Circuit Court room.

 Wayne Coles will discuss the renovation work planned for the Court House interior.
- MAY 5

 Lizton Methodist Church

 Vici Weaver will review So Brief a Frontier; Scenes

 from the Transformation of Wilderness by Don Alan Hall.

 The book deals with the early history of Union Township

 and the pioneers who settled it.
- AUG 4 Mill Creek Church
 Jodi Whicker will talk about the Furnas family of the
 Mill Creek area. Also Betty Bartley will give a brief
 history of the Mill Creek Meeting and the Mill Creek
 school.
- NOV 3 North Salem Christian Church
 Libbe Hughes will present a program on the Fifty-First
 Indiana Regiment under the leadership of Col. Able D.
 Streight.

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TO OUR NEW AND OLD OFFICERS

Our "new" officers aren't exactly new, for all of them have served greatly in various capacities. We want to thank them for their efforts, and especially Lois Crayton, our retiring president who has given so unstintingly of her time and talents. She has guided us through a most successful 1984, and because of her leadership and the help of many like her, the HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCTETY remains a vibrant, healthy, active society.

We feel that our organization contributes greatly to the vitality and stability of the Hendricks County community, not only by keeping alive our heritage, but by preparing us better to plan for our future through knowledge of the past.

It is dangerous to hand our accolades, for there are so many who deserve them, but as we are starting another year, it is fitting to mention a few.

Blanche Wean has been keeper of the exchequer since we were organized. She has agonized through the years trying to make ends meet and, of course, her job would be much more enjoyable if she could be faced with the "problem" of a surplus, but, alas, I am afraid that is not to be.

Mary Jeanette Winkelman has always addressed our bulletins by hand, never once complaining of writer's cramps! And she has suffered through having the editor mis-spell her name countless times without even mentioning it.

Jewell Bell has been publicity chairman for years and she sees to it that many newspapers, even those outside the county, are informed of our meetings. Last year she became secretary, and if any of our jobs deserve a salary, hers certainly does.

In addition, she has long been in charge of gathering helpers to assemble, staple, tie in bundles according to postal regulations, and even haul to the post office and pay the postage for our bulletins. Jewell is well named...she is a jewell of a worker and a jewell of a friend.

Dorothy Kelly is the gal who has been responsible for the museum since its very beginning. Although she has many willing helpers, she is the power that has made our museum outstanding. Although we know that with her, it is a labor of love, it is still real, hard labor spelled with a capital L.

Oh, dear, I wish now that I hadn't started this, for there are so many others who deserve special mention. But, as I looked back - and then looked forward - I realized anew how much we owe to so many. Our thanks to all of you from all of us, and may we count on many more years of continued success.

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LOOKING BACK

As our society starts out on its 18th year and our BULLETIN starts its 16th, it is well to think for a while about our beginnings. The following article was prepared by Jewell Bell and appeared in November in all our county papers:

HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESERVES COUNTY HERITAGE FOR ALL

The Hendricks County Centennial celebration on May 23, 1924 sparked the interest in preserving our heritage. There was a general demand for a museum to try to save some of the relics of a by-gone day. That was a time when everything must be new to be fashionable. Lots of things we hold dear today would have as likely been relegated to the junk pile or at least, kept out of sight as "too old".

On Nov. 22, 1924, a group of Hendricks County citizens met in the Assembly Room of the courthouse and organized the Hendricks County Historical Society. They chose as officers: Thad Adams, president; George Reitzel, 1st vice-president; Mrs. Julian Hogate, 2nd vice president; and Fred Brengle, secretary-treasurer. Dues were \$1 per year.

Their purpose was to get leaders for each township, and have a membership drive. Promotion would be through the clubs, P.T.A., and Central Normal College.

Members were assigned topics to be prepared for presentation at the subsequent meetings. At that time, at lease one person would prepare a paper to be read by another.

The northwest room on the third floor of the court house was given to the society by the county commissioners for a museum. The group met in its new quarters Sept. 14, 1926.

Charter members were: Thad S. Adams, Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Blessing, Mr. and Mrs. Fred E. Brengle, Mrs. W. C. Osborne, Otis E. Gulley, and Mr. and Mrs. Julian Hogate, all of Danville; Roscoe Leak, Lizton, Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Ryner, Coatesville, and Margaret L. Shuler, Indianapolis.

The organization lasted until 1928.

The people of the county felt that Hendricks County should have a proper celebration of Indiana's 150th birthday. Our Hendricks County Historical Society was the outgrowth of the birthday celebration.

On July 13, 1967, a group of county citizens gathered at the Boy's School in Plainfield. Roy Fisher, Pittsboro, chairman pro tem, presided. Hubert Hawkins, director of the Indiana Historical Bureau spoke.

The group drew up a constitution and elected the following officers: Frank Litherland, Plainfield, president, Mrs. Hazel Felknor, Avon, vice-president, Mrs. Mildred B. Smith, Brownsburg, secretary, Mrs. Blanche Wean, Danville, treasurer, and Miss Ina Shaw, Danville, historian. And thus the Hendricks County Historical Society was reorganized.

The second meeting was on the second Sunday in October, 1967 at the Fellowship Hall in the Pittsboro Christian Church. 'All who joined that day became charter members. Charter members numbered 85.

Meetings were to be on the second Sunday of January, April, July and October. Special occasions such as Mother's Day, and commencements caused a conflict, as well as the January meeting being too close to Christmas, so it was decided to change the meetings to the first Sunday of February, May, August, and November. Our dues are now \$3.

Meetings have been held in many places. It was found feasible to look for an air-conditioned place in summer.

The society has had many interesting speakers, the second being the late Wayne Guthrie of the "Indianapolis News". We've woven a close bond over the years because most wouldn't miss the meetings for anything if they could help it.

Then Margaret Baker started writing the bulletins along about the first part of 1971. She has several contributors who tell about their own neighborhoods from their own experiences and by stories handed down. Someone will relate a story, not fiction either. We don't write that kind. Someone will suggest that they write it up for the bulletin. We've received some interesting information that way.

It's always been interesting to see the historic places where we've met and nearly always, there is someone who will tell the history of the building.

Those of us who work at putting the bulletin together have really become acquainted and we have a good time. It takes a lot of will power to keep from reading the bulletin until we get finished.

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NEWS FROM THE INDIANA ROOM DANVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

by Betty Bartley

The beginning of a new year is a time to make plans, and I would like the members of the Hendricks County Historical Society to help me plan for 1985: any suggestions for books on genealogy and local history, any ideas for newspaper articles or displays will be welcome.

The library has ordered a new, larger display case for the main floor, with plenty of room to display photos and artifacts. The first display will feature photos that we have recently had printed from the collection of glass negatives taken by Prof. Charles Λ . Hargrave at the turn of the century.

The Indiana Room has joined the National Genealogical Society, and will be receiving their publications. We also have purchased an index to the 1860 census of Hendricks County from Kratz Indexing that will be very useful to researchers.

The Census Microfilm Rental Program has raised the price for microfilm rental, and extended the rental period from two weeks to 30 days. Ask for further information in the Indiana Room.

DEDICATION SONG

(The following was sung by the Rev. G. S. Reedy at the Dedication Exercises for the new Hendricks County Court House in 1915. It was sung to the tune of old Welsh Melody. Words by Mrs. N. E. DeMarcus.)

1. Long ago the men of Hendricks, Under trees in this same place Heard the judge pronounce the sentence, After laws they traced. The house of justice then, dear friends, Was one big log to seat the men; The stump a seat for the judge, you see: So the house was one big tree.

CHORUS

Look upward now, dear friends,
And see before you stands
A house of justice beautiful,
Adorning our county grand.
Oh, we're proud of our County Court House;
Grandly it stands for truth and justice;
Let it, then, our spirits rouse,
For Freedom, God and right.

- 2. Two years later in twenty-six, They built a house which had no bricks; Logs they notched and pinned together, A house for the bad weather. Clapboards made the roof quite tight; Greased paper used for window light. Logs were hewn for a puncheon floor, And wide boards made the door.
- 3. Later, in eighteen thirty-two,
 They built a frame quite grand and new;
 In fifty-eight they built again
 A house more modern.
 The brick they built in sixty-four
 Was known for beauty the whole state o'er.
 But THIS is Hendricks County's Queen,
 Completed in fifteen.

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PLAINFIELD HISTORICAL COLLECTION

Many new acquisitions have been added to the Plainfield Public Library's Historical Collection in recent months. "The Southern Friend," the journal of the North Carolina Friends Historical Society, volumes 1-6 is now available. Recent articles have included "Early Settlement of Friends in North Carolina: Traditions and Reminiscences," by Addison Coffin and "Progressives and Conservatives Search for Order: The Division of North Carolina Quakers," by Damon D. Hickey. In addition, each issue includes reviews of recent books on topics relating to Friends and their history.

Consolidated indexes for several counties in Indiana have been acquired. These are similar to the W.P.A. index of names of persons and firms in Hendricks County, with which you may be familiar. Indexes for Randolph, Monroe, Shelby, Hancock, Hamilton, Wayne, Boone, Johnson, Brown and Bartholomew counties are now available for consultation at the Plainfield Library.

Two books which are in both the Historical and Indiana Circulating collections are Margaret Moore Post's First Ladies of Indiana and Russell Mumford's lavish pictorial Birds of Indiana volume. Mrs. Post is a Plainfield native who is a retired journalist with the Indianapolis News. She spent years meticulously researching the wives of Indiana governors for this, her latest work. Mumford's book is illustrated with countless color plates, executed by William Zimmerman, noted Indiana wildlife artist.

Also of interest is a set of reproduction souvenir programs from the Indianapolis Motor Speedway from 1911-1941, excluding 1917 and 1918 when none were issued. The programs which include advertising of the times, are also available either in the Historical or Indiana Circulating collections.

Several county history publications have been added to the Historical Collection. These include: Dillard's Orange County Heritage, Hendryx's New Palestine History 1871-1971, Bryson's Hagerstown Centennial, 1832-1932, Smith's Historical Sketches of Old Vincennes, Founded in 1732, and Branigin's History of Johnson County, Indiana. Also, Darlington Yesterday and Today, Reminiscences of Adams, Jay and Randolph Counties, History of Wayne County, Indiana (1884)/ and History of Northeast Indiana (1920).

The Plainfield Public Library's Historical Collection staff welcomes you to visit and research. Hours for February, March and April will be Monday, Wednesday and Friday from noon until 5 p.m. While this is a departure from the regular Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday schedule, the Collection will still be open the last Saturday of these months from 9 a.m. till noon and from 1-5 p.m. Plan a visit soon!

PLAINFIELD ADDS NEW MICROFILM

New microfilm available for public use at the Plainfield Library's Historical Collection includes:

Danville Gazette, January 1953 - December 1983
Danville Republican, January 1951 - December 1983
Hendricks County Deed Records, Vol. 1, January 1830 - Vol. 64, April 1886 plus 4 tolls of general index
Hendricks County Obituaries 1880's - October 31, 1984

The obituaries are from the library's file which was begun in the late 1960's and consisted of clippings and photocopies which were filed in a four-drawer legal-size file cabinet. The microfilm, on one roll, takes but a tiny fraction of the same space! An alphabetical card index facilitates research.

The addition of the last 30-35 years of Danville newspapers completes the library's files. A previous purchase of film included county seat newspapers from the early 1900's to the early 1950's.

All of the above-mentioned microfilm may be used with the library's microfilm reader/printer to obtain paper copies at a cost of 20c per $8\frac{1}{2}$ x 11 page.

PLAINFIELD HISTORICAL COLLECTION NEW TEMPORARY HOURS

During February, March and April the Guilford Township Historical Collection of the Plainfield Public Library will have a temporary change in hours. New hours for these months will be as follows: Monday, Wednesday and Friday from noon until 5:00 p.m. In addition, the Collection will be open the last Saturday of each month (February 23, March 30 and April 27) from 9:00 a.m. until noon and 1:00-5:00 p.m.

Call 839-6602 for confirmation if you plan to visit the Collection and will be traveling some distance.

REMC'S 50th

We are indebted to Owen and Lucille Stamper for calling our attention to the 50th anniversary of the R E M C and they have submitted the following interesting article. Many of us can remember the early days before electricity came to the farmers and the days when it was new and exciting. Many of us have interesting or amusing memories of those days and we hope you will share them with us.

Did you know that the year 1985 marks the 50th anniversary of our nations first state association of rural electric co-operatives (REMC's). And Hendricks County REMC was one of the first REMC's in the State of Indiana; Boone County REMC was the 1st in the nation. We would like to have some articles in each of our historical bulletins this year that tell about the early days of Hendricks Co. REMC. If you have some special things you remember and want to share with others, please send them to the editor and we will use as much of the information as possible.

Following is some information you might be interested in knowing: On May 11, 1935 Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed an executive order establishing a Rural Electrification Administration and in May, 1936, a bill was passed that allowed the REA to make self-liquidating loans to co-operatives established by the farmers themselves. Hendricks Co. Farm Bureau Co-op officers were instrumental in organizing all the early meetings in our area. On August 2, 1935, twelve people assembled in Danville to discuss the possibility for securing rural electrification for Hendricks Co. There was definitely a need and a desire to have it in the rural areas.

Other meetings were held throughout the next several months and the movement began to gain momentum. A name was adopted, directors were elected, and the way was paved for incorporation under Indiana law and the filing of a loan application with REA. On June 12, 1936, the formal organization of the Hendricks Co. REMC was formed. Officers were: Chester Cooper, President; Roscoe Bunten, Vice-President, William Mackey, Secretary, and Edgar Reitzel, Treasurer. Other board members were: Atlas Gore, Albert Cable, Alva Hocker, Frank Nichols, Clarence Masten, Merritt Gregory, Walter Barlow, Frank Fisher, Charles Davison, and Walter Johnson.

The 1st annual meeting of members was held in the county court house assembly room on March 17, 1936, although there was not a pole in the ground yet. An application for funds to construct, operate, and maintain electric distribution lines within the area designated to this REMC was submitted to REA on November 4, 1936. This was for an initial 400 miles of line to serve approximately 1600 member - consumers. This loan was approved early in 1937, making the money available to let construction contracts and proceed with construction.

In early spring, 1937, Ed Davis, manager of Hendricks Co. Farm Bureau Co-op, who lived near Jamestown, contacted Mr. C. O. Stamper to see if he would be interested in heading up the Hendricks Co. REMC. Mr. Stamper at that time was the superintendant of the municipal power plant of Jamestown, and owner of an electrical appliance store there. Actually Mr. Stamper was project superintendant when he first started working in the area and Mr. Edgar Reitzel was the executive secretary or one who took care of all correspondence and paper work. Later, Mr. Stamper was hired as the first manager and served in that capacity until his retirement in 1964.

Along with many farmers, Mr. Stamper covered a 5 county area getting farmers to agree to avail themselves of electrical service, if and when the service could be provided; they also had to get easements that would permit poles and anchors to be set on farmland. Some farmers were not agreeable to signing easements because it had been falsely rumored that the easements were a form of a mortgage. Three houses per mile was the minimum density before a territory could be served with rural electricity. While this canvassing of the area was mostly daytime work for Mr. Stamper and the farmers, he also taught wiring classes at night for the farmers and other interested persons in the loft of the Farm Bureau Co-op building. To cover expenses of supplies used, each student paid 25¢. Some of those who attended these classes were: John W. Price, Herman Smith, and Glendon Alexander who were later employed at Hendricks Co. REMC. Others were Ashton Peacock, Victor Underwood, Howard Routh, Floyd Parker, and many other farms around the area.

Construction of electric lines was started in the summer of 1937. The very first pole was set north of Danville at the intersection of State Rd. 39 and Road 200 North. A kerosene lamp was thrown in the hole before the pole was set. By late 1937, a 122 mile - long section of line northeast of Danville was nearing completion and soon meters were installed. The 1st meter to be installed was at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Earl Donovan, south of Maplewood on December 29, 1937 at the corner of Roads O and 350 North. On January 1, 1938 this 122 mile - long section was energized.

Electric wiring in each house and barn supplied with this new electric current had to be inspected and Mr. Stamper was the 1st licensed inspector. Ironically the 1st home he inspected on REMC lines was the residence of Lucinda Ellen Parker and the Floyd Parker family where Mr. Stamper's future daughter-in-law lived. Maybe - that was the first time Owen S. Stamper and Lucille Parker saw each other when they were 13 and 10 years old, for Owen went along with his Dad many times in the work of the REMC and was later employed there for 20 years.

One of the first employees of Hendricks Co. REMC was Harold Anders who had worked for the construction company that built the REMC lines. He was the first lineman and the only line employee for many years. He and Mr. Stamper did all the service work for several months. Mr. Anders was the father of Florence Herrmann, a member of the Danville Public Library Board.

Other early employees were: John W. Price, Herman Smith, Lucille Boll, Mabel Freeman, Paula Fisher, Carl Jones, Cecil Gray, Glendon Alexander, Mary Jane Paddack, Ruth Thomson, Floyd Bosley, Owen S. Stamper, and Lester Hane.

Remember to send in your special story about these days in the past

Lucille & Owen S. Stamper

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NORTH SALEM TO CELEBRATE ITS 150th BIRTHDAY

Robert Porter is chairman of the North Salem Sesquicentennial Committee and he sends the following information:

In case you want to plan ahead, be sure to keep your eyes open for the days when North Salem celebrates its Sesquicentennial this year. The Planning Committee met Tuesday evening to get the "show on the road."

North Salem was laid out in 1935 by John and David Claypool and John S. Woodward. Historians say the town was always prosperous, even from the beginning because of the railroad. The 1910 census showed North Salem had 569 citizens.

The community was incorporated in May, 1899, and town officers were elected. Serving in 1914 were J. H. Page, Harry Seaton and Harry Dean as Trustees, with Smith Davis as Clerk and Virgil Robbins as marshal.

Sometime in 1910 the town installed an acetylene plant for residential and street lighting.

The North Salem Masonic Lodge was chartered on May 25, 1942 as the town's first secret order. In 1965 the Old Fellows Lodge was chartered, and the Knights of Pythias lodge chartered about 1910. Earlier, the Joe Fleece Post No. 383, Grand Army of the Republic was chartered in 1884, however it was no longer active by 1914.

North Salem's Bank was organized in 1891 by Pritchard & Son of Illinois, but was purchased later by "home" people. In 1914, C. W. Davis was president, with G. B. Davis as cashier and J. B. Fleece as assistant cashier. Average deposits amounted to \$150,000 that year.

The first white settlers came to Eel River Township in the spring of 1824. Family names of the early settlers included Bateman, Claypool, Woodward, Trotter, Bales, Page, Benson, Covey, Davis, DeWitt, Collins, Clifton, Campbell, Crum and Penningtons.

John Benson built the first mill in the county on Rock Branch in 1926 and lasted but a few years. Mr. Crum built a mill on Eel River, not far from the site of Crum's mill. Sometime in 1830, a distillery was started near Crum's mill - the first in the county.

The citizens of Eel River Township were apparently a special and "clanish" type of people. At an early day, the residents passed what was known as a "stay law" in defense of their property, which was often taken and sold by the constable.

This gave rise to the Boulder Club. Whenever the constable advertised a property for sale, the Boulder Club would meet the night before the sale and pile a number of boulders on the property - serving notice that the constable was not to try and sell the property.

We don!t know whether the Boulder Club will be reorganized this year, but plans are underway for a big celebration in Eel River Township and at North Salem.

Smythe and Hanna Hardware Store in North Salem was established in 1903, after R. C. Smythe and Frank A. Hanna purchased the stock of Click and Son. Historians reported "they have enlarged the business and now have in their establishment about everything known in the hardware line." The firm was the sole agent for the "celebrated Quick Meal Range," and carried a full line of farm implements.

NAMES THAT BRING BACK MEMORIES

(Printed in THE INDIANAPOLIS NEWS, Aug. 25, 1953. Submitted by Mrs. Owen Stamper, daughter of Chester Parker, mentioned in the article.)

She Switched to Weaving

By Wayne Guthrie

Many interesting reminiscences go together to make up the fascinating saga of the old Hamilton School of Hendricks County but none is more interesting than that of Edna Hamilton. She was the dutiful daughter of the settler, Abraham Hamilton, who gave the seat of learning its name.

The story goes that Edna was all set to be married. The date had been fixed and all her wedding accourrements were ready. Even the bridegroom's suit had been finished by the home seamstress. His tucked and frilled wedding shirt also was ready for laundering.

Then there was a final prewedding call. The marriage was called off! On his return from that visit the bridegroom-not-to-be said forlornly:

"They need Edna at home. Insist she remain with father and mother."

And so it was that Edna was not married. In fact, she never was married. However, she sat about dauntlessly weaving coverlets. They were of such unusual strength and beauty that she soon acquired a fame that reached far beyond her own community. In fact, it reached out so far she was able to earn enough money to buy 40 acres of that fertile Hendricks County land.

And thus do the old grads of Hamilton School speak with pride of one of the original career women of that day, one who labored with unmatched initiative and creative skill.

That tale was told to me by Mrs. Eva Waters, of Pittsboro. It and many others doubtless will be retold at the annual reunion of the old school September 6. It will be at the home of Dr. and Mrs. O. T. Scamahorn, of Pittsboro, both of whom attended the old institution of learning.

In its hey-day the school had 69 to 75 pupils. The little tots were lined up on calico-covered boxes in the front rows, lacking desks. One of those who sat on such a box along with three others-all on the same box, mind you-was Mrs. Scamahorn, who then was Fannie Rutledge. I was interested in what Mrs. Waters had to say about that:

"A little later Fannie didn't laugh along with the rest of the school when scrubby, overgrown Oscar Scamahorn proclaimed:

"I'm goin' be a doctor.'

"From then on Oscar was called 'Little Doc' by the youngsters. But he has lived to know over half a century as a country doctor, with the varied experience of the progress in medicine during that time-Fannie Rutledge along with him, accompanied in later years by two other Doctors Scamahorn, Malcolm, of Pittsboro, and Milburn, of Kokomo.

"Mrs. Virginia Heckathorn, of Jamestown, will recount the kindliness of small, blond Fannie Rutledge befriending her when the scholars made fun of her in her home-made linsey woolsey dress when she came from Virginia and began school in the Hamilton School."

Among those who taught at that old school was Miss Eva Harper, whose 93rd birthday was celebrated recently at a party put on at the County Courthouse in Danville by the Women's Relief Corps. She, incidentally, was also a pupil in the school. A guest at the Danville party was Mrs. Iza Kennedy, 83, a close friend of the honor guest.

Miss Harper still teaches a Sunday school class in the Lizton Christian Church, just as she has done for more than 50 years. What a fascinating life she has lived. Entering land in the West, she built a sod house only to have it cave in on her during a rain. Then, while captive, she directed workers as they dug her out. She suffered only a broken arm.

Others who taught there are Chester Parker, Hendricks County Auditor; Mrs. Eldora Keeney, who ran a Danville book store until recently; Dr. O. T. Scamahorn, and Obe Higgins, who served several years as township trustee.

There was a time at the old school, too, when young Aubrey Moore, just here from Virginia, gathered the scholars in the Elmore woods across the way and there preached, prayed and sang hymns with them joining in. All the while those youngsters chewed calamus roots obtained from the nearby branch. Incidentally, the Rev. Aubrey Moore occupied pulpits in Noblesville, Indianapolis and other cities following his graduation from Butler University.

One of the most interesting books to come our way recently is SO BRIEF A FRONTIER ... Scenes from the Transformation of Wilderness ... by Don Alan Hall. The son of Ruth Leak Hall, he has compiled a large number of stories about the families that settled and lived in the twenty square miles surrounding Lizton, or New Elizabeth as it was called earlier. It is the story of the Montgomery, Leak and Leach families and those who followed. It is a beautifully written book, a labor of love, which is the product of well over a decade's work. He acknowledges the great help of his nother, Ruth Leak Hall, his wife, Roberta L. Hall, who, as a professional anthropologist, helped greatly with the pre history and the demography. He also mentions the valuable contribution of Roscoe Leak and Eldora Keeney.

It is a must reading for all of us Hendricks County natives and especially for those who grew up around the Lizton area.

A copy of this can be found in the Danville Public Library, a gift of Ruth Leak Hall.

QUERY

Our CAKLEY family migrated into Indiana via 1828. Marriage records of Hendricks Co. show: Eppie m. Charles Rennard 8 Mar 1882; James M m. Mary E. Blackwell 24 Feb 1883; J. C. Oakley m. Annie Cassity 25 Sept 1885; Maggie m. William H. West 9 Dec 1897; Thomas m. Ruth Robbins 24 Jan 1894; Ir A. m. Minnie Roach 1 April 1900; Laura M. m. Clarence Hornaday 21 July 1901 and Mary m. Ed Morris 2 April 1905.

I'm trying to make contact with any living descendants of the OAKLEYS of Hendricks County, IN. Can you help me?

Della Oakley Morris Route 1, Box 444 St. Francis, KS 67756

QUERY

We are interested in the following families from the 1830-1860 time period:

DIRECT.....

Matlock
McVay (McVey)
Stricklan
McClain (McClane, McLane, McLean,
McLain, McLaine, etc.)

INDIRECT.....

Wilson
Ballard
Marquis
Bascom
Walker
Vaggoner
Moore

Don & Sue Marsh 3818 Providence Pasadena, Texas 77505

hchshchshchshchshchshchshchshchs

WANTED

A copy of HISTORY OF HENDRICKS COUNTY 1885 ... by Ramona Boley, 5401 U. S. Highway 17-92, West Lot #30, Haines City, Florida 33844. If anyone knows of some one who is willing to part with a copy, please contact the above.

(The above notice emphasizes the importance of owning a copy of THE HISTORY OF HENDRICKS COUNTY 1914-1976. Fortunately, copies are still available, but soon they will be gone ... and after that ... who knows what they will cost!)

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MY FIRST PLANE RIDE

(By request, Dorothy DeHaven of Clayton submitted this copy of a poem written by her father, Joseph S. Thrush, who incidentally, lived to be 100.)

When I rose in the air on my first plane ride Something stirred me, was it fear or was it pride? The earth was receding, not a cloud in the sky, I was drifting and drifting, not even a sigh.

The farms down below seemed to pucker in size, And the fields were blocks - was I ever surprised! The buildings were toys, as they stood side by side, It's a memory I cherish - my first plane ride.

We passed o'er the woodland - mere shrubbery to me And the fields of red clover were as pink as could be, And the roads were so narrow, the cars seemed to glide I was thrilled and delighted with my first plane ride.

DISAPPOINTED IN HISTORY OF HENDRICKS COUNTY 1914-1976

We all like to hear good things about ourselves and our efforts, and of course, we aren't exactly thrilled to hear criticism. Criticisms, however, come and are usually justified.

A recent letter from California reads, "After looking over a copy of your HISTORY OF HENDRICKS COUNTY 1914-1976, I was surprised to see how incomplete it was."

We are sorry the writer found our history so incomplete. Perhaps it was because her family wasn't mentioned. I would like to remind her that we worked long and hard for two years compiling that book. During that time it was well publicized. We begged, cajolled and sometimes threatened in order to get families to write up their histories and submit them.

Many families co-operated, but too many families did not. After the book was published, many people felt as our friend from California did ... that the history was incomplete, but please don't blame us!

Gail E. Whitton, the writer from California, in order to prove that her family did live in Hendricks County, sent an article about her great grandfather, Squire Thompson who lived and died in Brownsburg (1906) and her father, Cleo Everett Thompson who lived in Brownsburg and had one of the first gas stations there.

She is interested in tracing her family, so if any one can help her, please send the information to Gail E. Whitton, 8808 North Bank Drive, Ventura, CA 93004.

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Indiana Collection
PLAINFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY
PLAINFIELD, INDIA