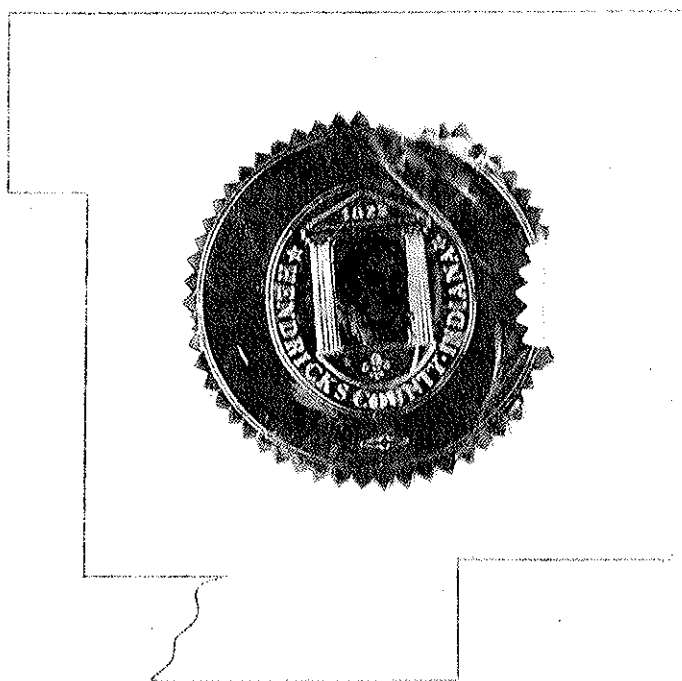


HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORY BULLETIN



1. A.

FOR 1970

VOLUME 1

NUMBER 1

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PUBLISHED BY

THE HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Danville, Indiana

Cover: We are indebted to Mr. John Gambold, Jr., Hendricks County Clerk and president of the Hendricks County Historical Society, for our cover. He designed the Hendricks County Seal with the picture of the Honorable William Hendricks, Governor of the State of Indiana when the act organizing the County of Hendricks was approved, December 29, 1823. The Seal is outlined with the boundaries of Hendricks County, so we feel that our cover is distinctively Hendricks County.

GREETINGS

The Hendricks County Historical Society is happy to present Volume 1, Number 1 of the "Hendricks County History Bulletin." Our Society is only three years old, and in this first publication, we have attempted to bring you up-to-date on what we have been doing, and, in addition, to give you some interesting information.

Hendricks County is an unique county in many ways. It is not only one of the most interesting counties in Indiana because of its rich heritage, but it is now one of the fastest growing counties in the state, and statistics project it to continue to be during the next ten years at least.

The aim, therefore, of the Hendricks County Historical Society is two-fold:

1. To preserve and to stimulate interest in our precious past, and
2. To keep pace with the fast-changing future; to communicate with those who will soon take our places so that they, too, will appreciate and treasure their great heritage.

The Hendricks County Committee for the Indiana Sesquicentennial adopted the following motto: "Indiana - leader among states; Hendricks - leader among counties." The Hendricks County Historical Society hopes to help Indiana and Hendricks County to live up to this ideal.

Mr. John Gambold, Jr. - President

Mrs. Rawleigh Baker - Vice President

Mrs. Roy Pritchard - Secretary

Mrs. Blanche Wean - Treasurer

Miss Ina Shaw - Historian

PUBLICATION COMMITTEE

Mr. Scott Hosier - Chairman

Mrs. Rawleigh Baker

Mr. George Heavilin

Mr. Joe Davidson

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SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR 1971

Sunday, January 10, 1971 at 2:00 P.M.
Fellowship Hall of Danville Christian Church
Mrs. Nellie Beagley, presiding
Program: "A Trek Through Hoosierland"
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Hines
Social hour in charge of Center Township

Sunday, April 18, 1971 at 2:00 P.M.
Amo Community Building
Dr. Sherman Crayton, presiding
Program: "Economic Growing Pains"
Speaker - Mr. Richard Clutter
Social hour in charge of Clay and Franklin Townships

Sunday, July 11, 1971 at 2:00 P.M.
Music Room of Brownsburg High School
Mrs. Mildred Smith, presiding
Program: "Let There Be Music"
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Jones
Social hour in charge of Lincoln Township

Sunday, October 10, 1971 at 2:00 P.M.
Salem Church
Mrs. Harold Templin presiding
Program: "Folk Lore in Hendricks County"
Mrs. Zona Walker and Mr. Joe Davidson
Social hour in charge of Guilford Township

I am enclosing \$2.00 for 1971
membership in the Hendricks
County Historical Society.

Mail to: _____ Name _____
Mrs. Blanche Wean, Treasurer
P.O. Box 128
Danville, Indiana 46122 Address _____

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HISTORY OF THE HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Hendricks County Historical Society was organized July 13, 1967, at the Indiana Boys' School Chapel at Plainfield. Co-chairmen were Mr. and Mrs. Roy Fisher who had been selected by the Hendricks County Committee for the Indiana Sesquicentennial at their closing meeting in 1966.

Dr. Hubert Hawkins, Director of the Indiana Historical Bureau, was helpful as he spoke on the work and organization of Historical Societies in Indiana.

At this first meeting, a constitution and by-laws were adopted, officers were elected, and committees were appointed. Mr. Maxwell Lee, County Chairman of the Sesquicentennial Committee, presented the society with a check for \$250 which was the award won by Hendricks County for placing third in the Indiana Sesquicentennial Manuscripts and Records Project.

Twelve meetings subsequent to the organization meeting have been held at the following places: Brownsburg Eaton Hall, Danville Christian Church, North Salem Christian Church, Pittsboro Christian Church, Pittsboro United Methodist Church, Plainfield Public Library, and the Salem United Methodist Church in Liberty Township.

Our membership has increased from the original 74 charter members to 137. Our Society has contributed \$20 for repair of the statue, "The Barefoot Boy" at the Indiana Boys' School; \$50 toward the expense of collecting and co-ordinating Hendricks County Cemetery Records; and \$75 for Cindy Hewlett who participated in the tour of the Lincoln Heritage Trail which was sponsored by the Indiana Junior Historical Society.

Officers who have served are as follows: 1967 and 1968 - Mr. Frank Litherland, President, Mrs. Hazel Felknor, Vice President, Mrs. Herbert Smith, Secretary, Mrs. Blanche Wean, Treasurer, Miss Ina Shaw, Historian; 1969 - Mrs. Herbert Smith, President, Mr. Scott Hosier, Vice-President, Mrs. Roy Pritchard, Secretary, Mrs. Blanche Wean, Treasurer, Miss Ina Shaw, Historian; 1970 - Mr. Scott Hosier, President, Mr. John Gambold, Jr., Vice President, Mrs. Roy Pritchard, Secretary, Mrs. Blanche Wean, Treasurer, and Miss Ina Shaw, Historian.

Speakers, their subjects, and authors, if other than speaker, have been:

Mrs. Rawleigh Baker - "History of Central Norman College"
Dr. Sherman Crayton - "The Keeley Institute"
Mr. Clarence Edmonson - "Pictures of the Past - Liberty Township"
Mr. Leonard A. Fleenor - "Benjamin Harrison in Hendricks County"
(by John Gambold, Jr.)
Mrs. O.B. Garner - "History and Pictures - Brown Township"
Mr. Wayne Guthrie - "Hoosier Heritage"
Mrs. Ruth Hall - "Cholera Epidemic of Lizton, 1873"
Mr. Scott F. Hosier, Jr. - "Ghost Towns of Hendricks County"
(written by Mrs. Woodrow Moore, Sr.)
Mr. Gerald Jones - "History of Bel River Township"
Mr. Frank Litherland - "Transportation"
Mrs. John C. Miller - "Peavines - Prophets and Prints" and "Central Academy"
Dr. M.O. Scamahorn - "Pioneer Doctors"
Mr. Harold Wilson - "Hendricks County's Coverlet Weaver"

Mrs. Roy Pritchard

EARLY VOTING RECORDS

Hendricks County, we are told, has one unique historical claim-to-fame that none of the other 91 counties can boast: Voting records that go back continuously to 1826 and are in good state of preservation.

The first record of election is preserved as a "Form of Poll Book," Tally Sheet, and Certification from a contest held "...10th Aprile 1826 for the purpose of Electing one Justice of the peace."

This election was held in Eel River Township at the house of John Fowler, Sen. Thirty five electors presented themselves and their names were entered in the "poll book" -- which consisted of a blank piece of 15" by 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ " paper impressed into service by folding the sheet the short way. Names of the voters were entered by the two Clerks and/or probably the inspector, if a cursory matching of handwriting can be any guide. It would definitely appear that each voter did not sign the poll book for himself.

The Candidates were Reuben Claypool and James Fowler and the boards tally on the back shows 26 marks for the former and 9 for the latter.

The following certification was then penned, probably by the inspector:

"we the inSpector and Judgese of the above
Election doo hereby Certify that Reuben
Claypool for justicic of the peace Re-
ceived twenty Six votes. James Fowler
For Same office Received Nine votes giv-
en under our hands the year and day above
written.

David Claypool	Inspector	
Preston pennington	} Judges	
Christian Hartman		
John Moore	} Clerks	"
William Turner		

The election does appear to be more than a popularity contest since only two Claypools and two Fowlers appear on the "poll book." However no mention is made of party affiliation. In fact such does not appear until after 1850.

Other surnames that appear on the "poll book," in addition to the above are: Way, Hendrix, Benson, Jones, Evins, Bateman, Williams, Wooderd, Coats, Harper, Crum, Horn, Walker, Walters and Hughes.

Early elections appear to have been conducted at almost any time of the year and normally on the first Monday of the month. Of the eighty-three (83) elections held and preserved through November 1832 every month had been utilized except January and February which would appear understandable from the standpoint of pioneer travel.

The Hendricks County Commission of Public Records entered into a recent agreement with the Indiana Historical Society whereby all voting records from 1826 through 1915 would be transferred to the custody of the State Archivist where they would be preserved until such time that the Hendricks County Historical Society could "...become perma-

nently established in a building with a room that would be fireproof and safe for storing manuscripts and documents" At that time the Indiana Society would, upon our request, transfer these voting records back to the custody of our Society.

The records have already been micro filmed up through 1870 and presumably the State Historical Society will complete this process through 1915 in the near future.

John Gambold, Jr.

BOOK 1½

In 1939 the Indiana Works Progress Administration extracted male-female marriage application names for the period 1823 through 1920. These names, comprising some 28,000 entries, were alphabetized and published in two books. (A to L, M to Z)

Very recently it was discovered that the marriage application records for the years 1831 - 1837 had not been included in the W.P.A. works. Somehow, inadvertently the clerk then had serialized two books "Volume 2" and subsequently mislaid the entire volume containing the earlier record. The second "Volume 2" was utilized during the years 1837 - 1845.

Upon relocating the 1831 - 37 volume it was rebound and dubbed "Book 1½" to indicate its place between the existing volumes.

A supplemental index has been prepared of these 816 additional names (408) marriages and will be available to the researcher and genealogist.

The State Library, Indianapolis, and the Clerk's Office, Danville, now have the complete index of marriage application 1823 - 1920.

John Gambold, Jr.

HENDRICKS COUNTY'S GHOST TOWNS

Center Valley (Home of Gov. Ralston's Wife)	North Belleville
Bradshaw	Oak Plain
Brayton	Pecksburg
Chiselton	Raintown
Jacktown	Roundtown
Gale	Six Points
Hardscrabble	Spicklepoint
Joppa	Spray Station
Maplewood	Springfield
Ht. Sterling	Tank
New Williamsburg	Toll Gate
Needmore	Union

YOUR HENDRICKS COUNTY AND MINE

The poet William Henley once wrote, "I thank what ever gods may be, for my unconquerable soul." Here was a philosophy of courage that could triumph over circumstances, however hard and bitter they might be, and as one reads the early history of our county he finds this unconquerable thread all through the society of that day in 1820 when Bartholomew Ramsey and half dozen other settlers came into the woods along White Lick and decided it was a good place to start a home. They built cabins, cleared out briars and underbrush, drained mosquito infested swamp land and ploughed under the sod for crops. It is interesting to learn how these settlers had in their makeup the ideas of democratic government, and they met in villages like old Springtown to elect township officials, give a name to their village and start the process of government. They picked their best educated to represent them at a later time in a state legislature and to send a representative to Washington. They were a determined people from the start. As they toiled for a living, they would assure for themselves law and order.

In early days their determined spirit inspired the building of a log school house here and there and the hiring, at some price, the best informed to teach their children. It is interesting today to think of the teachers long ago receiving for their pay a bushel of potatoes, a "jint" of meat, or a calf from the head of a family better situated financially than his neighbors. And what can be said of the dress and the text books of these pupils, large and small, who trudged through thickets, waded creeks and marshes to reach the school house: Shoes were scarce in the by-gone days and the clothing of boys and girls was exceeding plain. Books were scarcer than shoes and it is recalled that a grandmother describing her log school near where Clayton is today remarked: "My only book was a Testament, and from it I was taught to read." This same woman used to tell how her neighbor children went in bare feet to this school until snow began to fall in early November and on many a morning she has "seed their bloody foot prints on the snow." It took grit to get a smathing of learning in those days and these early Hendricks County boys and girls had it.

A time came when the log school house would no longer do, nor the greased paper windows and slat seats and desks, the drinking water from a spring. Folks progressed and discovered a better day for their children and the little, red, brick school house came to be in the several townships and a teacher was secured who was perhaps a year or so beyond his brightest pupil. Text books appeared with maps and double and single seats and double and single slates. Wells were dug in school yards and a stove stood in the middle of the room to make all comfortable on winter days. Even this advance was not enough for our county's determined and progressive people. At eighth grade commencements, girls and boys made speeches on "Consolidated Schools" and the old folks listened, and talked and became convinced. They no longer wanted Rock Branch, Billtown, Needmore or Rose Cottage and a half dozen other one-room red-brick schools. Townships built larger and finer buildings with assembly halls and often a whole township of proud parents came and listened to commencement music, sometimes a paid orator, or they enjoyed plays given by their youngsters or enjoyed a day at a farmer's institute and a good dinner. Those were good days.

Years rolled on and the world progressed, the population soared and the big school that for years had been near and dear gave way to the present larger yet, and better type to keep pace with a changing society.

Hendricks County over the years has not only witnessed the tremendous progress in the schools but has kept pace in building more stately structures in a larger, better court house, better trading marts, a much needed hospital, churches to accomodate more people, and beautification of lawns and parks. Better farming methods and better seed in our county made it possible for a farmer of New Winchester to take championship corn to a great agricultural fair in Toronto, Canada.

Hendricks County has had its outstanding lawyers in John V. Hadley, Solen Enlow, George Harvey, Edgar Blessing, Otis Gulley and others. One of Indiana's foremost artists, Clifton Wheeler was born in Hadley; Elrod of Coatesville became a governor of South Dakota; Thomson and Orth went to the big leagues from Danville, and "Casey" Hogate made his mark at DePauw and the Wall Street Journal in New York City. Many a boy and girl from Brownsburg, Plainfield and smaller towns have brought honor to their homes and county as farmers, ministers, business men, doctors, teachers and newsmen.

The folks of our county from 1820 to the present have had the courage to keep up with their world or a little ahead of it, with a desire to build anew and always to build bigger and better. Perhaps their philosophy of growth can best be expressed in the lines of Oliver Wendell Holmes' poem, "The Chambered Nautilus!"

"Build thee more stately mansions, O my soul,
As the swift seasons roll.
Leave thy low-vaulted past!
Let each new temple, nobler than the last,
Shut thee from heaven with a dome more vast,
Till thou at length art free.
Leaving thine outgrown shell by life's unresting sea!"

This perhaps sums up the growth, and the progress over a century and a half of YOUR HENDRICKS COUNTY AND MINE.

Joe H. Davidson

The Hendricks County Historical Society has been collecting data about Hendricks County Burying grounds and cemeteries for almost three years. We now know of more than 120 places in our county which have been used for burial purposes. The following is an alphabetical listing of the names of most (but not all) of these places. If more than one name has been used to identify a location, cross reference is made to the one under which our records are kept. We have found several names which are obviously erroneous, but since these faulty names are used in other reference sources, they are included here.

The number in the right hand column under GRAVES is a count of the tombstone inscriptions in our records. If there is no number in this column, we have no list of inscriptions for this cemetery and we would be most happy to obtain such a list.

This is a continuing project by the Society and additional information about Hendricks County burying places is earnestly sought and most welcome.

Members of the Society who have need of any of the information in these records should write or call:

George E. Heavilin
R.R. 3, Box 89
Danville, Indiana 46122
Telephone (317) 582-2711

NAME	TOWNSHIP	COMMENTS	GRAVES
ABNERS CREEK	Washington		278
AMO	Clay		
Arbuckle	Brown	see Bethesda	
ARNOLD	Center		
AVON METHODIST	Washington	also North Lawn, McClain	104
AYERS	Center		
BAILLEY FARM	Union	Moved to CUNDIFF in 1970	2
BALLARD	Brown		
BARGO	Center		
BARLOW	Washington	also King	
BELL	Lincoln	also Hufford	16
Bell	Center	see COFER	
BETHEL LUTHERAN	Clay	also Soots, Scherer	11
BETHESDA	Brown	also Arbuckle	
BOYS SCHOOL	Guilford		49
BUCHANAN	Liberty		27
Burgess	Union	see GRIFFITH	
CAMPBELL	Eel River		
Cartersburg	Liberty	see SPRINGHILL	
CENTER VALLEY	Liberty		
CHRISTIE	Center	see HILLSIDE EAST	
CLAYTON	Liberty		
Coatesville East	Clay	see WEST BRANCH FRIENDS	
COATESVILLE SOUTH	Clay		
COFER	Center	also Bell	10
CORNETT	Liberty		4
County Commissioners	Center	see HILLSIDE WEST	
CRAFTON	Washington		2
CUNDIFF	Union		16
DANVILLE EAST	Center		
DANVILLE SOUTH	Center		
DAVENPORT	Eel River		
DAVIS	Liberty		10
DOWNS	?		
EVANS	Brown		
FAIRFIELD FRIENDS	Guilford		610
FAIRVIEW	Eel River	also No Salem	
FLEECE	Eel River		
Fox	Washington	see COSSIETT	
Friendship Baptist	Liberty		20
FULLER	Eel River		
GENTRY	Center		43
GENTRY	Franklin		2

NAME	TOWNSHIP	COMMENTS	GRAVES
Gossett	Brown	see MACEDONIA	
GOSSETT	Washington	also Fox, Wesley Chapel	
GREENLAWN	Lincoln		
GRIFFITH	Union	also Burgess	7
GROOVER	Union		22
Hadley	Guilford	see HOADLEY	
HADLEY FRIENDS	Clay		129
HARDWICK	Center		10
HEBRON PRESBY.	Franklin		4
HIGGINS	Marion		6
HILLSIDE EAST	Center	also Christie	84
HILLSIDE WEST	Center	also County Commrs.	28
HOADLEY	Lincoln	also Old White Lick Presby.	3
HOADLEY	Guilford	also Hadley	
HOLLOWAY	Middle-Lin	see PREBSTER	
Holtzclaw	Middle	see LONG	
Hufford	Lincoln	see BELL	
HUGHES	Middle		
Hurin	Washington	see GOSSETT	
HYPES	Eel River		
HYTEN	Center		
IRONS	Liberty		261
JOHNSON	Brown		
JONES	Liberty		15
JORDEN	Center		
KIGER	Center		
King	Washington	see BARLOW	
LEACH I	Union		5
LEACH II	Union		3
LINGEMAN	Lincoln		90
LIZTON K of P	Union		
LONG	Middle	also Holtzclaw	
McCLAIN	Washington		4
McClain	Washington	see AVON METHODIST	
McCORMACK	Liberty		21
McDANIEL	Lincoln		81
MACEDONIA	Brown	also Gossett	
MAPLE HILL	Guilford		
MARVEL	Brown		
MERRITT	Washington		10
MILES	Liberty		12
MILL CREEK FRIENDS	Center		
MISSIONARY BAPTIST	Liberty		
MONTGOMERY CHAPEL	Union		15
MOON	Liberty	see SPRINGHILL	
MORAVIAN	Clay		5
MOUNT PLEASANT (Old)	Center	sometimes Whitenack	
NOLAND	Marion		1
North Lawn	Washington	see AVON METHODIST	
North Salem	Eel River	see FAIRVIEW	
No SALEM BAPTIST	Eel River		4
PENNINGTON	Eel River		
Pioneer	Union	see VIELEY	
Pittsboro #1	Middle	see WHITE LICK BAPTIST	
Pittsboro #2	Middle	see St Malachy West	
PLEASANT HILL (Old)	Franklin		13

NAME	TOWNSHIP	COMMENTS	GRAVES
PREBSTER	Middle-Lin	also Spickelmier, Holloway	38
PRITCHETT	Union		
RAISBY	Guilford		2
ROBBINS	Marion		27
ROBERTS	Middle		2
St HALACHY WEST	Middle	also Pittsboro #2	33
SALBN METHODIST	Liberty		176
SALBN BAPTIST	Washington		137
SCHERER	Clay	see BETHEL LUTHERAN	
SHILOH	Washington		351
SHILOH METHODIST(Old)	Washington		21
SNODDY	Franklin		
Scots	Clay	see BETHEL LUTHERAN	
SPARKS	Brown		283
Spickelmier	Middle-Linc		
SPRING(Cons)FRIENDS	Clay		
SPRINGHILL	Liberty	also Moon, Cartersburg	
SPRINGTOWN	Clay	also Tincher	46
STEWART	Center		
STILESVILLE	Franklin		
SUGAR GROVE	Guilford		742
TEMPLIN	Center		
Tincher	Clay	see Springtown	
TROTTER	Bel River		
TURPIN	Lincoln		
VANDERVER	Bel River		
VANNICE	Marion		24
VIELEY	Union	also Pioneer	214
WALKER	Lincoln		
WALNUT GROVE(Ridge)	Franklin		
WARD	Lincoln		1
WEAVER	Middle		
WESLEY CHAPEL	Washington	see GOSSETT	
WEST BRANCH FRIENDS	Clay	also Coatesville East	63
WHITE LICK BAPTIST	Middle	also Pittsboro #1	366
WHITE LICK FRIENDS	Guilford		
WHITE LICK PRESBY	Washington	also Wilson	88
WHITE LICK Pres(Old)	Lincoln	see HOADLEY	
WHITENACK	Marion	see also MOUNT PLEASANT	
WILSON	Washington	see WHITE LICK PRESBY	
ZIMMERMAN	Bel River		

THE BROWNSBURG JUNIOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Brownsburg Junior Historical Society, under the guidance of Mrs. Opal Endicott, has had a very busy and interesting year. They have conducted a Cemetery Project in which they have surveyed and copied the inscriptions of 320 tomb stones in ten different cemeteries. (Mr. Heavilin, please note!) As an architectural project, they surveyed 20 old homes in the Brownsburg area.

Miss Cindy Hewlett, whom most of us remember giving such a delightful report of her Lincoln Heritage Tour (which, incidentally, we sponsored) is a member of the State Oral History Committee. This group has published a booklet which is now being used by all Junior Groups in the state.

The Brownsburg group is, of course, a member of the Indiana Junior Historical Society. Delegates will attend the State Conference in the Spring, and the group will have a project on reapportionment. They will also have a candidate in the annual contest for the Outstanding Junior Historian.

The Hendricks County Historical Society congratulates this fine group on their many accomplishments, and we wish them well on all their future endeavors.

HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOTE PAPER

Our Society has most attractive note paper for sale - our only money-making project so far. It pictures the Recitation Building of Central Normal College - the institution which put Danville and Hendricks County on the map from 1878 - 1946. Any of the more than 60,000 students who enrolled in the College during that time, or any one who was living in the County at that time, would be delighted with a box. If interested, at \$1.25 per box, contact:

Mrs. Blanche Wean, Treasurer
249 South Wayne Street
Danville, Indiana 46122

Mrs. Rawleigh Baker, membership chairman, invites anyone interested in Hendricks County history to join our Society. Dues are \$2.00 per year and they may also be sent to Mrs. Wean at the above address.

Mrs. Baker urges the following township chairmen to stimulate interest in the Society and to put on a membership drive in each township:

Brown - Frances English
Clay - Doris Hubble
Center - Jewell Bell
Bel River - Faye Walton
Franklin - Leonard A. Fleenor
Guilford - Clark Kellum
Liberty - Ruth Pritchard
Lincoln - Mildred Smith
Marion - Virginia Joseph
Middle - Hazel Rains
Union - Ruth Hall
Washington - Hazel Felkner

IN CONCLUSION

Abraham Lincoln once said: "I like to see a man proud of the place in which he lives; and so live that the place will be proud of him."

The Hendricks County Historical Society is a sentimental organization. We are proud of our county and we revel and glory in our heritage. For those who would scoff at our seeming obsession with the past, may we say that, without a past, there would never be a present - without a present, there will never be a future.

So our Hendricks County Historical Society is a stepping stone between the past and the future. It is our hope and our prayer that future generations will appreciate our efforts - that they will continue our work, so that all who come after us will know - and understand - and treasure their knowledge of the past - and perhaps realize, better than we - whence they came.

