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# HENDRICKS COUNTY

## HISTORY BULLETIN

VOLUME III

NUMBER 1

January 1972

PUBLISHED BY

THE HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DANVILLE, INDIANA

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## WILL YOU CONTRIBUTE?

With this issue this Hendricks County Historical Bulletin leaps from annual to quarterly status. Whether or not the change is justified depends on whether we can find enough interesting material to fill four issues.

And this depends upon YOU. The four members of the publications committee can serve as channels and as stimulators; the material must come from a much larger number.

Mr. Scott Hosier, Jr., has indicated the wealth of material that should be uncovered, organized, and made available to all. This includes the history of every church, every school, every cemetery, every business, every family. A little of this - sometimes a lot - is lost whenever one of our older citizens dies.

It may be very hard for the individual to find sufficiently complete data on any one subject. The Bulletin is open to questions, so that one may draw upon the combined resources of all.

We invite your suggestions, your questions, and particularly the product of your patient, thorough investigation of some area of Hendricks County History.

Lois Crayton  
R. 2, Box 299  
Danville, IN 46122  
Editor

## FROM THE PRESIDENT....

Greetings to all members, and a special welcome to our new members!

The Hendricks County Historical Society certainly has its work cut out for the coming year. The Executive Committee has been delighted with the response of those who, thus far, have been asked to work. With such wonderful willingness to help, interest, enthusiasm and ability, how can we fail to make strides toward our goals?

I like the slogan of the Indiana Landmarks Association - "We must not only build for the future - we must preserve for the future".

We echo that call to all interested in Hendricks County history.

Help us to make this a good year!

Margaret Baker,  
President  
(Mrs. C. Rawleigh Baker)

It was voted in Executive Meeting that the fiscal period shall run from October 1 to September 30. This means that annual dues (\$2.00 per year) paid after July 1 shall be credited to the future year but all before that to the past year.

Blanche E. Wean,  
Treasurer

January 1972

COME

COME

COME

The Hendricks County Historical Society will meet

On Sunday, January 9, 1972, at 2:00 p.m.

At the Danville United Methodist Church, West Mill Street

To Hear Dessie Davis Huddleston talk about Indiana antiques.

Virginia Joseph will preside.

Center Township will have charge of the social hour.

You are asked to bring for display antique scrapbooks,

autograph books. The speaker makes these suggestions:

HOLD HISTORY IN YOUR HAND

Pick up a piece of antique glass and you hold in your hand a piece of America's history. America's past is much a part of many Hoosier households. How many homes in Indiana have something that once belonged to a pioneer relative ! Perhaps an ironstone serving platter that was brought across the Alleghenies, wrapped in a shawl; or perhaps a pewter pitcher; or a half dozen tablespoons made from silver coins; or a glass bowl that had been a wedding present to grandfather and grandmother; or a handwoven coverlet, made by the grandmother of the person who now owns it; or a copper kettle formerly used to cook apple butter, but now holding magazines.

We hear and read a great deal nowadays about conservation of our natural resources. The government spends millions of dollars yearly to buy and put aside land in National forests, parks, and game preserves. The National Audubon Society and the National Wildlife Federation concern themselves with making people aware of the need to conserve our natural resources and wildlife. Of equal importance is the preservation of our nation's genius in the field of craftsmanship.

Would you like to bring to this meeting something of America's history to show and tell about?

BRING A GUEST

Do you know someone who would enjoy our Society's activities but really doesn't know much about them? Maybe he thinks he cannot join without being invited. Bring him to the January meeting. Let him see, become interested, and join. But whether or not he joins, he is most welcome to attend the meeting.

Dues for 1972 of \$2 are payable in January.

Sherman G. Crayton  
Membership Chairman

January 1972

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR 1972  
HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1. Sunday, January 9, 1972 at 2 P.M.  
Danville United Methodist Church  
Mrs. Randall Joseph, Presiding  
Program: Hold History in Your Hand  
Speaker: Mrs. Dessie Davis Huddleston, Lizton  
Social Hour: Center Township in charge  
To Show: In addition to the antiques suggested by  
Mrs. Huddleston, each member is asked to bring  
scrapbooks, autograph books and diaries. Please  
include your name and any interesting information  
on these articles.
  
2. Sunday, April 9, 1972 at 2 P.M.  
Lizton Christian Church  
Mrs. Nellie Beagley, Presiding  
Program: Brownsburg Junior Historical Society  
Plainfield Junior Historical Society  
Social Hour: Union Township in charge  
To Show: Each member is asked to bring school pictures,  
programs, invitations etc. Please include your  
name and any interesting information on these  
articles.
  
3. Sunday, July 9, 1972 at 2 P.M.  
Pittsboro Christian Church  
Mrs. Edward Winkelmann, Presiding  
Program: Hendricks County Authors  
Mr. & Mrs. Leonard A. Fleenor, Coatsville  
Co-chairmen  
Social Hour: Middle Township in charge  
To Show: Each member is asked to bring books by  
Hendricks County authors. Please include your  
name and any interesting information on these  
books.
  
4. Sunday, October 8, 1972 at 2 P.M.  
White Lick Church near Tilden  
Mr. Floyd Hufford, Presiding  
Program: Hendricks County in the Civil War  
Speaker: Mr. John L. Oliver, Pittsboro, Past President  
(1971) of the Civil War Round Table of  
Indianapolis.  
Social Hour: Lincoln Township in charge  
To Show: Each member is asked to bring Civil War  
relics. Please include your name and any interesting  
information on these articles.

Mary Jeannette Winklemann,  
Program Chairman

January 1972

OFFICERS FOR 1972

<u>President</u>	<u>Vice-President</u>	<u>Secretary</u>
Mrs. Rawleigh Baker 387 E. Broadway Danville, IN 46122 Tel: 745-2115	Sherman G. Crayton R. 2, Box 299 Danville, IN 46122 Tel: 845-2614	Mrs. Ruth Pritchard R. 1, Box 209 Clayton, IN 46118 Tel: 539-6890
<u>Assistant Secretary</u>	<u>Treasurer</u>	<u>Archivist</u>
Mrs. Pearl Edmondson 806 S. Tennessee Danville, IN 46122 Tel: 745-2655	Mrs. Blanche H. Wean 249 S. Wayne St. Danville, IN 46122 Tel: 745-2573	George Heavilin R. 3, Box 89 Danville, IN 46122 Tel: 852-2711

NEW OFFICERS PLAN FOR NEW YEAR

The officers elected at the October third meeting of the Hendricks County Historical Society met to plan for the 1972 season at the home of President Margaret Baker on October 18. A long evening session was not enough, and a second meeting was held on November 9 at the home of Vice-president Sherman Crayton.

These discussions were directed mainly toward long-range goals, such as:

1. The importance of collecting without delay historical materials that could become lost or unavailable - such as manuscripts, maps, diaries, letters, and data on schools, churches, cemeteries, and "ghost" towns.

2. The classification and storage of such materials. The Society's archivist, George Heavilin, announced that he would be in the Indiana Room of the Danville Public Library on Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 to receive and file materials and also to assist researchers in need of help. The group approved Blanche Wean's suggestion that each item be stamped "Property of the Hendricks County Historical Society" so that there need never be any misunderstanding as to whether an item belonged to the Society or to the Danville Public Library.

3. The storage of historical materials in the Danville Library was regarded as a temporary arrangement, although it might continue for several years. It is hoped that eventually the Society can acquire an historic old home or other quarters to serve as a Hendricks County Museum and Historical Library. Inquiries are to be made as to how such projects are financed in other counties.

George Heavilin was authorized to spend up to \$100 of Society funds for a filing cabinet, filing materials, and book plates. Provision was made for the purchase of printed stationery in addition to mimeo paper required for the bulletin, which is to appear shortly before each of the four meetings of a year.

COMMITTEES FOR 1972

Membership

Sherman G. Crayton  
Mrs. Frances English  
Mrs. Frances Fisher  
Miss Leona Stuart

Program

Mrs. Mary Jeannette Winklemann  
Leonard A. Fleenor  
Mrs. Virginia Joseph  
Claire J. Sellars  
Mrs. Nellie Beagley

Ways and Means

Jack Gambold  
Robert Bales  
Mrs. Mildred Smith  
Mrs. Carolyn Kellum  
Harold Templin  
Floyd Hufford  
John W. Edwards  
Willard Eggers

Publication

Mrs. Lois Crayton  
Mrs. Ruth Hall  
Mrs. Clara Reitzel  
Mrs. Ida Mae Miller

Publicity

Mrs. Iva Debra

HOOSIERS OF HENDRICKS

I would like to make contact with descendants of Samuel B. Hall. Mr. Hall possibly was born in Norfolk, Virginia, about 1813. He migrated with parents to Boyle County, Kentucky, and came to Clayton about 1854. He was a silversmith. Please contact Mrs. Ruth A. Hall, Lizton, Indiana 46149, Tel: 994-5775.

Are there any of our older citizens who remember the singing schools conducted by William R. Shirley? One of the last, we believe, was at Pittsboro about 1899. We are interested in the songbooks he used: The Conqueror and The Challenge.

Lois Crayton, R. 2, Box 299, Danville, Indiana 46122. Tel: 845-2614

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I have my Grandmother's Graduation Invitation. It was of Washington Township Schools, Hendricks Co., Avon, Indiana.

Friday, May 28, 1897

8 P.M.

The Graduates were: Maggie Veer, Will Parsons, Edna Day (My Grandma), Lucy Patterson, and Tommy Long.

Supt. J. D. Hostetter presented diplomas. A Rev. Clark presided.

Wasn't that a class? We wouldn't consider printing invitations and having a program for five people today, would we? They gave each child a part. Grandma was 16.

Contributed by: Mrs. T. L. Samuel, Jr.  
2537 Agnew St.  
Montgomery, Ala.

January 1972

HENDRICKS COUNTY'S FIRST MURDER TRIAL

Hendricks County, Indiana, has had its share of famous persons... and its infamous ones too. The first to be accused and brought to trial for murder was Samuel K. Barlow, who is believed to have lived about two miles east of Belleville on the Old National Road (U.S. 40).

According to the grand jury indictment, filed on February 24, 1827, Samuel K. Barlow, "Not having the fear of God before his eyes, but being moved and seduced by the instigation of the devil" on October 16, 1826, "with a certain axe of the value of two dollars ... in and upon the hinder and upper part of the right thigh of ... George Matlock, then and there feloniously, willfully and unlawfully did strike, giving unto him ... one mortal wound of the length of five inches and of the depth of four inches of which mortal wound, he the said Matlock did languish and languishly did live (until) on the twenty-fifth day of October ... he the said George Matlock of the mortal wound aforesaid, died."

The defense attempted through cross examination of Thomas Matlock, a prosecution witness, to establish that the deceased had "told the witness a few days previous to the day on which the wound was given ... that the deceased had just returned from the Southern country and that he had left his saddle bags at the house of his mother, some 8 or 10 miles from the residence of the family of the said deceased ... informing his mother that she must have his saddle bags ready at a minute's warning for that the deceased would probably have to leave the country in haste." When the court would not permit the prosecution witness to reply to this cross examination, the defense asked, "that the same might be sealed and signed and made a part of the record ... which was done."

The defense also tried to "justify" the blow which caused the death of the deceased by introducing testimony that the defendant had been summoned by the family of the deceased to protect them against "imminent danger of losing their lives and receiving some great bodily harm from the deceased." David Matlock and others testified that two days prior to the day the blow was given the deceased threatened to "drive his wife from his house (from which the said deceased had been absent for a year and had just returned to the country but not to his house) and if she would not leave he would whip her to the holler(?)."

According to the 1885 History of Hendricks County (p. 289) this was the first important criminal case tried in the County. It states that the verdict was guilty of manslaughter; the sentence was one year in the penitentiary ... also that the defendant was "respited" from the sentence until the first day of the next term, with Samuel Jessup, John Ballard, and Abel Stanley posting bond for his appearance in the sum of \$300.

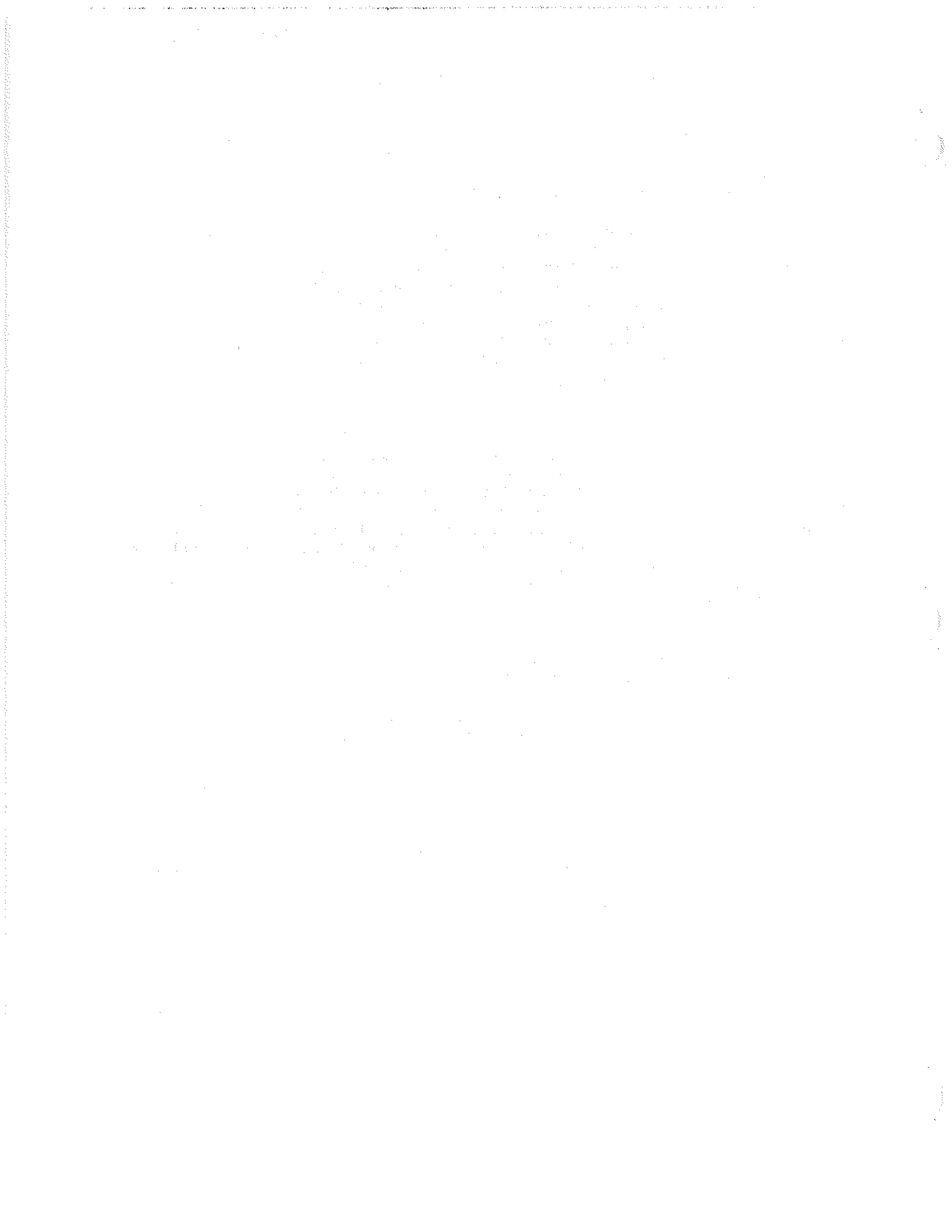
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The names of voters of Vol. One (1826 - 1852) of Hendricks County voting records is completed. Any one desiring information may contact Mrs. Ruth Pritchard (who has worked on this project for a year) R. 1, Box 209, Clayton, In. 46118

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He who does not fully appreciate the importance of events which have gone before, will never place proper value upon the work which he himself is doing today.

Gibbon





January 1972

## LONG AGO BUT NOT FAR AWAY

When Indiana was a wilderness Nathan Kirk built a cabin on the banks of Mill Creek near where the National (U.S. 40) now crosses it at the west edge of Stilesville. Two years later in 1822 Jeremiah Stiles came and erected a cabin for himself, his wife Sybila, and daughter Jerusha, age 19 months.

Mrs. Stiles died some four years later and was buried on a knoll on the west side of the creek. When high waters washed the soil away and exposed the coffin Stiles moved her body to higher ground on the east bank and donated four acres for a graveyard for the little town.

Enough settlers had clustered around the Mill Creek crossing that the town was platted in 1830. Nathan Kirk was named Judge and Jeremiah Stiles, Justice of the Peace. Other early settlers were John Smart, John and Isaac Wilcox, Jacob Reese, John Eslinger, and David Osborn. They honored Mr. Stiles by naming their settlement Stilesville.

In 1970 the town board erected a marker over Sybila Stiles' grave. The date of her death was January 16, 1827. The Stilesville Cemetery has become one of the largest rural cemeteries in central Indiana.

Tradition gives a very interesting story about a small plot of land in the west side of the cemetery close to the fence. There are no markers here; the exact location of the graves and the name of the people are unknown. The story, based on an article published in the Greencastle Banner in the early 1900's is as follows:

In 1849 a large caravan of Conestoga wagons, drawn by oxen, was travelling to California. These immigrants, from Ohio, were following the National Road. One evening they camped on the hill two miles east of Stilesville. That night they cooked green corn for supper. With true pioneer frugality they saved what was left for breakfast. The next morning they ate the corn, which had remained in a copper kettle over night. Immediately several became violently ill with ptomaine poisoning, and died. Some stories say that as many as forty five died, with most being buried at Stilesville and five buried at Mt. Meridian. Most versions give the deaths as eighteen with one more dying at Mt. Meridian.

All nineteen are buried in the Stilesville Cemetery. Their names remain unknown, as also their home town in Ohio.

Clara Reitzel

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### Do You Need Help?

George Heavilin, archivist for the MCHS, will be at the Danville Public Library every Thursday night from 6:30 till 8:30. He will be working on historical records, but he will be happy to help any one with research problems.



## THE OLD HOADLEY HOMESTEAD

by R. S. Debra

(Published by the Danville Republican in 1951)

One of the old homes in Danville that I want to tell you about is the one up on North Washington Street, known to you old timers as the old Hoadley Home. The Good Friday tornado (1948) did its best to rip the old house to pieces. It did succeed in tearing out the whole east wall but it takes more than a tornado to put a house like that out of business. You see, not only the outside walls are of brick but even the dividing walls are also built of brick. So when the tornado came and sucked all the air away from the east side of the house, the air on the inside just pushed the east wall out and that was the end of it. The rest of the house stood like a rock.

So Milburn Thompson, the owner, had the wall rebuilt and reinforced with cinder blocks. Now the old house is as staunch and sturdy as ever and good for many more years. For, you see, it is already one hundred and nineteen years old, having been built in 1832 by Col. Nave.

It was considered a mansion in its day and still is a house that delights the eyes of all those who have a reverence for old time buildings. As first built it was a three-story building, with eleven foot ceilings in all the rooms. But in 1876 it was remodeled, and the top story was cut down in size. By this time the building was owned by Dr. Hoadley, the present owner's grandfather.

At that time the north corporation line of Danville was the alley just south of the property's boundary line. The late William (Windy) Nichols told me years ago that the lawn was a favorite place for the boozing boys of that day to lie down in the grass and sober up. It was outside the corporation of Danville, so the Town Marshall had no authority to arrest them. And still it was only two blocks away from the saloons where whiskey could be bought.

Dr. Hoadley, Milburn Thompson's grandfather, bought the house in 1850. And it was in the top story of the house that the Civil War soldiers of Danville were mustered into the service. And here again they were mustered out of the service in 1865. The top story is one huge room and at that time was probably the largest single room in Danville.

Mrs. Milburn Thompson, who admitted me into the house, is enthusiastic about the old mansion, as she has a right to be. The fireplaces, which are all the rage in the newer homes, were already in place and in operation years ago.

The stair hallway in the center of the house is big enough to hold a modern cottage and have plenty of room to spare.

"Everything about the place seems to be made of brick," said Mrs. Thompson. "The old two story apple house which we tore down when we bought the place had walls almost as thick as the brick walls of today. And it was so cold in there in the summer time that a person almost froze going in and out. That was their way of keeping fruit and vegetables in the old days."

"A hundred and nineteen years ago labor was cheap and a brick house was much warmer than a log house. So many brick houses were built and the bricks were made and burnt right on the grounds. That was the case with this house. The bricks were burned right here on the grounds. Did you ever see a double sized brick? One that is just twice as wide as a ordinary one? There are seven in the walk out in front; they were used as the in-bricks on the corners."

"And if you notice closely you can see the imprint of a dog's foot on a number of the bricks. So Col. Nave's brick mason must have been a lover of dogs, for the imprint is still there after one hundred and nineteen years. Not only are there brick walks all over the place, but there are three wells and a cistern on the lot all lined with bricks."

"Just to show you how even fashions in houses change, take stair rails for instance. Grandmother Hoadley when she had the house remodeled in 1876, took out the black walnut railings and had mahogany railings put in their place. Later the mahogany railings were moved out again and put on the stairway in the second story of the apple house."

"Are there any legends that go with this house," I asked. "Oh Yes," she replied, "it even has a ghost, although I have never seen it or even heard of it. And rumor has it that this house was a station on the underground railway in the pre-Civil-War days. One thing is sure; it was owned by a man who hated slavery. It was on high ground and a light set in the third story window could be seen at night for a long, long way."

"As for the ghost, it is said to operate mostly on wild stormy nights. More than a hundred years ago, Col. Nave and his wife lived in this house and it was here that their baby died. The mother almost lost her mind through grief at the loss of her baby. It is said that on nights when the weather is wild outside, if you listen closely you can hear strange sounds. Sounds of a mother rocking her baby to sleep, singing in a soft, low voice with an occasional sob. Want to investigate, the old house is still there."

#### HOOSIERS OF HENDRICKS

SCHOOLER, HELEN, P.O. Box 273, Indianola, Iowa 50125 Desrs. info following Potter family. Daniel, wife Hannah lived 1840's. Children Zadock married Edith Hinckle, Polly, Zebedee, Lindley, Lurena, John Milton, Lydia Ann, Daniel, William Franklin, Children of Zadock were Hannah married Simeon Ader, Eliza, Jane, Newton, Isaac married Mary Ader (my great grandparents). Above born Hendricks County. Aders were Putnam and Hendricks County residents. Potters and Aders moved to Missouri around 1860.

#### QUERY

RUSSELL, MRS. IVAN, Earlham, Iowa 50072 desires information on descendants of Enos Tuttle and Rhoda Benson Tuttle. Married in Clark County Sept 9-1819. Later moved to central part of state. The wife was a widow in the 1850 Census. One son was named Washington Tuttle. Other children but do not know the names.

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Please tell all concerned, that the October issue of the History Bulletin was excellent. The cover is especially attractive and I want to send my compliments to those responsible.

While I will not be close enough to participate in the activities there, I hope to hear more about them in future bulletins.

Sincerely,  
James K. Roberts  
2228 Portage Ave.  
South Bend, Indiana 46616

January 1912

JOHN IRONS, FIFTH COUNTY CLERK, TELLS HIS STORY

Danville, Indiana  
May 16, 1864

Dr. Levi Ritter

Dear Sir. Two years ago, I made you a promise that I would write out a short biography of my life to accompany a likeness you had taken of me to frame as a memento of the fifth clerk of Hendricks County.

I was born in the county of Washington in the State of Indiana on the fifth day of August 1819 A.D., of parents who were poor in all things, save health, morality and resolution. Soon after my birth my family moved into Lawrence county where it remained two years and then removed into Morgan county where we lived amid chills and fevers, near the mouth of Stott's Creek, four years when growing weary of ill health we for the last time removed into this county. Consequently I can safely put my self down among the first settlers.

The summer I became ten years old found me down with Rheumatic Fever from the effects of which I have never recovered; although in the course of two years I had so improved in health as to be able to share the toils and sports of other boys of like age. At the age of fourteen I was placed by my father in the little dry goods shop just started in Belleville by Alfred M. Lyon and William P. Matlock, where I was initiated into the art of and mysteries of measuring prints and tying up coffee. And here for the benefit of the present and future posterity among fashionable females, let me state that at that time it took 6 1/2 yds of 7/8th print to make a common woman's dress and 7 yards for those who went the tip of the Beau Monde in and around Belleville. With the firm of Lyon and Matlock I remained six months at a cost to it of my board and a palm leaf hat worth then about 37 1/2 cents.

The winter following I went to school and learned about all there was in Pike's Arithmetic under the tuition of James S. Odell then a young country school master but now an old man and a denizen of Plainfield with three sons in the 7th Ind. now "on to Richmond".

On leaving school I went into the store of Wilford J. Ungles who was also a merchant of Belleville with whom I remained six months when I had to leave and go home on account of a second attack of Rheumatism. This lasted from August when I again entered Mr. Ungles' store where I remained until the next May when I went to keep accounts for my father and John Hiles who had on their hands a heavy job of work on the cross cut canal at the mouth of Birch Creek in Clay County. I returned home in July and in a month again took to crutches on account of the great plague of my life but on the approach of cold weather I threw aside my crutches and for the third and last time went into the store of Mr. Ungles where I remained until the next summer when I again went home with the Rheumatism. Like the other, this spell lasted until November when I recovered sufficiently to go into Banta & Matlock's store, who had commenced business in Belleville the spring before and with whom I stayed until they quit business in April 1840. The next month my father took his then new and only



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son-in-law and my self in partnership with him under the name of Irons & Sons and brought a heavy stock of goods to Belleville. This firm only lived to February 1842 when owing to the uncertainties of the pork trade it went under. My father being the responsible man of the firm then took the business into his own hands and sent me as super-cargo on a small flat-boat loaded with pork to New Orleans. This, remember, was in the first half of the year '42 when the prices of labor and all kinds of agricultural products touched bottom. On reaching New Orleans I found Pork at from four to six dollars per barrel, bacon three cents and lard three and one-half cents. The bacon or rather bulk pork I had left at Natchez in the care of the pilot, Wm. Naylor, to be smoked and sold there and had only taken from Natchez the lard and barrel pork. These items I stored in a commissions house with instructions not to sell for three months but the merchants being a set of scoundrels sold before I left the city as they so reported three months afterwards and of course only paid the prices of May instead of those for September which would have made a difference of nearly 1000 dollars. That fall I called on them to see about it, but as I had failed to give my instructions in writing or before a witness it had to go so. The lesson they taught me then of the commission trade proved to be of great worth afterwards for my father kept in the pork trade for ten years and made money more or less every time save one.

In the summer of '44 I took the spell of Rheumatism which in four years doubled me into my present delightful shape of three pannels of worm fence, then ankylosed my hip joints and the joints of my back, neck and jaws and then left me in pretty fair health and with vim enough for me to run for and be elected twice as clerk of Hendricks county. The first time in 1851 and the last in 1855.

My education had been of but a limited character had I left off seeking seeking it where the commonest sort of country school teachers left-off with their tutorship. But when the school master ceased work with me, I commenced the biggest and most important portion of my education. Candles being of far too much importance in our family to read by, I studied my lessons by the light of burning chips and bark. After going to "keep store" as the country people called it, I made it a point to read every night and often, when my book proved interesting, one o'clock had found me up and reading. Among other things I made it a rule to remember the name of the book and its author and here would advise all who wish to talk intelligibly with others on books and literature to observe the same rule. Nor have I ever received as true the statement of any author whether profane or Sacred that would not stand of itself upon the closest cross examination. When a statement has neither philosophy nor reason in it the thing is not true and it is wonderful what an immense number of lies there are in books received as truths and to be again taught as truths by unthinking people.

Yours Doctor with respect.

John Irons

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