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THE HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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H C H S

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H C H S

The word MAY is a perfumed word. It is an illuminated initial. It means youth, love, song, and all that is beautiful in life.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS

FEBRUARY MEETING

The HCHS met February 11 at the Christian Church at New Winchester. In spite of the ice and the snow, a goodly number attended.

President Randall Joseph gave words of welcome and introduced the Rev. Hughes of that church, who gave an inspirational devotional. The usual business was transacted and ways of retiring the debt on our history books were discussed. This is our main goal for the year.

Mildred Hosier reported on the successful Christmas season at the Museum, and following the business meeting, members were invited to the basement where materials were laid out for everyone to make their own Valentine. Mrs. Worrell, program chairman had given an interesting account of Valentine's Day through the years.

Members of Marion, Center and Clay Townships served many kinds of delicious cookies and coffee, thus ending another enthusiastic meeting.

HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS

A GREAT MAY MEETING COMING UP

Vyanne Chandler, chairman of the May meeting, has a super program planned for Sunday, May 6th, at the Old Salem Church. PLEASE NOTE THE EARLY DATE.

The theme for the meeting is PRESERVING YOUR MEMORIES. Vyanne has arranged to have Pam Najar, who has been with the Indiana State Library a year and a half, to give the program. Pam has attended the New England Document Conservation Center at Andover, Mass., and she will talk on Conservation of Materials. She will emphasize photographs, books, magazines, documents and prints. She would like every one to know that these methods are applicable to paintings, quilts and fabrics of most any kind. Members are urged to bring an example of something special you want to preserve, and she will talk to you and explain how this can be done. This is a wonderful opportunity our organization has never had before.

NOW... here is how to get to the Salem Church. Everyone knows where Belleville is. Well, if you don't, you are badly in need of help. From Belleville, follow State Road #39 south to the first road to the East (left, if the sun isn't shining and you can't tell directions). Follow this road to the end ... it is a T road. If you don't turn, you will end up in a freshly plowed field and will need to be pulled out. If you turn right, or South, you will be within a mile of the church.

Ladies of Liberty, Franklin and Guilford Townships will be the charming hostesses with their usual delicacies and besides, May is a beautiful month to get out, a time to praise God for the breath taking beauties of Spring. DON'T MISS THIS MEETING.

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AN OLD LETTER

(This letter was found in a book purchased at a sale by the late Ed Brinegar of Amo. No clue as to the writer.)

Chicago, Ill April 17 - 96 Well Sena i will try and rite you a few lines am feeling beter this earning wer vary Sick untill mid nite laste nite i am vary tirde i and Florence went out on the fair ground this morning i got a rolen cher and we had a nice time after noon we had to move out of the rume and go 2 blocks fouter it is so crouded it is hard to get rume they are turnen off people ever day evert thing is on a move her thay aver year by the firste of may well i gas you would like to now what i think about it i so things laste nite opened mi ies So a lady that hadend stud on her feets for 10 years or used her arms and her brain was fected She had bin her 3 dayes the Dr. laid his hands on her and rubed the affected parte and then he told her to Stand up She rose up without helpe and he told her to wolk She went across the rume with out eny body helpen her and i so a nother lady wer Deafe he lad hand on her and praid fo God to heale her then he counted twenty in a loe tone and She told him what he Said this morning So the lady tolken in a low confishen with Some other ladies She could her vary well. then thar were a lady Blind he rubed her ies and She said She could See then rubed her eies and hed up a halfe a Dollar 2 feete from her and She tole him what it was Well i can tell you lots whi i come home i cant see that Florence is any beter yet hope how soone She will we seene the Blesen he praid with her last nite and laid his hands on her Seems like ever one air Deapley intrested in her and praing fo her thay. treat her so kind the place we air at thay waite on her like she were ner kind thay oll Say we arto Stay 2 weeks we may stay untill mondy if we come Saturday we will come to lebon and Down on the eavning train to advance i will finish on Florance.

HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS

MUSEUM MUSINGS

by Jewell Bell

The weather didn't hold out. In fact it collapsed about the first of the year with all of the populace under it! Every time more snow was forecast, everyone gasped "No! Not again!" Yes, we were snowed under and in the deep freeze as well.

The board valiantly tried to keep the museum open on its appointed days, but it was an effort. Clubs had to reschedule or even cancel meetings.

Board meetings were cancelled during January and February. We tried daytime meetings in March and April. That will be fine for some but not for those who must be at work in the daytime.

In spite of the weather we have received several contributions. There was a picture of the Maplewood train wreck (1913). No doubt that was a topic of conversation for a long time. Then there was a mortar and pestle, a wooden pill-box and a report card dated November 13, 1896. Also a picture of the Brownsburg

basketball sectional winners (1927). An arithmetic book (1874), a spelling book (1876). Some more of yester-year included a paste-pot, child's wooden dishes, money bags, and long mitts. Also an album containing post-cards from all over the world. A 1904 Atlas of Hendricks County. Three fancy velvet or velour capes. There was an item we women couldn't quite figure out. Two panels of white lace curtains (1924) were in perfect condition! No broken places and no yellowing! Most of us thought any we'd had would have been long gone by this time. There was a beaded purse, a copy of the "Danville Weekly Advertiser", forerunner of the "Republican", a Danville weekly newspaper. As well as a copy of the "Indianapolis News" February 16, 1898. "Peterson's Ladies Magazine", August 1869. Another photo album and an autograph album circa 1900. Discharge papers from W.W.I. "Danville Gazette", October 2, 1947, "The Republican" January 1, 1948. Hendricks County Centennial program, May 23, 1924, Indianapolis Sunday Star, March 20, 1948. "Coatesville Herald", Thursday, March 25, 1948. And an old wall-paper sample. Just lately we received a dress-fore--we never have too many, and a curtain stretcher which was promptly placed in the laundry room. A descendant of a family who was intensely interested in photography sent in a vast assortment of pictures both large and small. Outstanding was 150 glass negatives of assorted sizes. We need the means for developing the pictures. Resently, we received a job-let of mannequins and it will suffice to say they came "knocked-down". Two of them wearing old wedding gowns now greet visitors in the parlor while another upstairs in night-gown and cap sits in the rocker by the window of the master bedroom and tells the visitor about the family album she holds in her lap.

HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS

CLIPPINGS FROM THE PAST

THE HENDRICKS COUNTY LEDGER - Aug. 18, 1858. A lady recently cleared her house of flies by putting honey on her husband's whiskers when he fell asleep. The flies stuck fast, and when he went out of the house, he carried them off with him.

We understand another change in location of the Post Office, here, is to be made in a few days. It goes to the Drug Store of H. M. Smith, on the N E corner of the square, who has been, or will be appointed P. M. in the place of W. H. McPhetridge, resigned.

THE NEW COURT HOUSE

The Co. Board, after inspecting several plans, last week finally adopted one presented by Isaac Hodgson, architect of Indianapolis. We have not been able to learn the size or the probable cost but the latter will be in the neighborhood of \$40,000. The plan, however, is said to be a good one, and makes a favorable impression upon all who have seen the draft. We understand that a larger draft, colored and so adorned otherwise as to make it presentable, will be prepared in a short time, framed, and hung in the Auditor's Office where the public can see it.

PLAINFIELD PROGRESS November 10, 1898

Samuel Little used an Art Garland Stove 14 winters without a repair, and upon examination found it in good condition. "Chewing the pudding, tests the quality." Sold by Wm. Lewis Hardware and Stove Store.

PLAINFIELD PROGRESS June 1, 1899

William Todd, of Stilesville was in town the first of last week. Mr. Todd is past 46 years old and was born and raised in Stilesville but this was the first time he had ever been in Danville. He enjoyed the visit immensely and expects to make another visit soon. He told, while here of Mrs. Martha Alexander, who lives close to him, who is sixty five years old, has never seen a railroad train but once and has never taken a ride on the cars.

Last Thursday afternoon three girls, of the Classic Class started to walk to Cartersburg Springs and back. The proposal was made by one of the girls in the spirit of banter, which the other two girls accepted and the trip was made. On the return home they became hungry and going to a farm house asked for something to eat. The lady gave them seven biscuits for a dime, all the money in the party, which they munched as they plodded along wondering when they would walk that 12 miles again.

Cartersburg

Miss Nettie Snodgrass is organist at the Baptist Church.

James Snodgrass has bought a horse and a new buggy and harness.

Lon Little has been selling strawberries on our streets. His rule is "large measure and good quality."

Avon

Lora Reder and Oscar Hurin took in the bicycle races at Indianapolis, Tuesday.

THE REPUBLICAN June 7, 1907

TOWN PARKS

In the proposed industrial addition to Danville, including the Hall and Searce lands, it has been proposed that the Searce maple grove be left as a park for the people of the town. This was a happy thought and suggests that Danville should begin to make some arrangements for parks. A beautiful park could be made out of this grove of maples. Another splended park could be made out of the land recently purchased by Evan Davis and known popularly as the Campbell land. This extends from Rockville road southward to the Plainfield road and includes valley and hill. The Campbell pond could be restored and the creek might be diverted to form a lagoon for boating and bathing. There is already an abundance of nice grass and more trees could be put out. A ball field and several tennis courts could be laid off in the field immediately south of the road. City water could be piped into it and there could be a fountain and drinking places. Wouldn't it be great if the town owned the tract?

THE FRIDAY CALLER October 2, 1908

CARTERSBURG---Master Charles Miles of Danville, is visiting his grandmother, Mrs. Mary Irons.

THE FRIDAY CALLER Plainfield, Indiana September 11, 1908

The seventh annual Ross reunion was held at the home of Mrs. Emma Ross Easterday at Indianapolis, on Wednesday, August 26th. One hundred and thirty two, all Ross relatives, were present and partook of the bountiful dinner which had been prepared. Mrs. Mary Ross Davis, of Seattle Washington, was present with many interesting reminiscences of the early pioneers and traditions of the Ross Family. A history is being prepared in book form, which will be well worth reading when completed.

NOTE: Does anyone know whether that history was ever completed, or what became of the material, if it was not completed? If so, could the Hendricks County Historical Society have a copy of it?

THE REPUBLICAN June 27, 1907

Professor Hargrave has issued one of the neatest souvenir folders to be seen. It contains views from negatives made by himself of various points of interest in and around Danville. It contains space for writing a considerable message and can be sealed. It is timely and appropriate.

THE HENDRICKS COUNTY REPUBLICAN May 2, 1907

Col. G. C. Harvey will deliver the memorial address in Danville. The program is to have the decoration services in the morning to be followed by the address at 10:30. Then those who wish to go to Indianapolis to hear President Roosevelt will have the afternoon to do so.

AMD--Lewis Wright found a one-cent piece in the road Monday that is a little larger than a quarter. It has thirteen stars and bears the date 1825.

E. L. Fuson is building a room on the east side of the street opposite the sub-station and will move his barber shop into it as soon as completed.

PITTSBORO--Those from here who attended OES at Brownsburg Monday night were Mesdames O. F. & S. S. Waters, Misses Marie Wills and Nettie Hunt and O. F. Waters and J. T. Wills.

Recorder E. M. Weaver and Supt. H. T. Kirk, formerly from here came up from Danville Saturday to attend a GAR supper by WRC.

Dead Sea--The Big Four has stopped the farmers from getting out the gravel from the old R. R. track. The farmers had been expecting to get enough gravel to build three or four miles of road.

WE HAVE A SNOOPY REPORTER WHO IS ALWAYS DIGGING INTO OLD NEWS PAPERS, COMING UP WITH THE MOST INTERESTING AS WELL AS IMPORTANT ITEMS OF THE PAST WITHOUT HER THIS BULLETIN WOULD BE DULL...DULL...DULL
SOMETIME WE WILL TELL YOU HER NAME.

OH, WELL, WE MIGHT AS WELL TELL YOU NOW
FOR YOU KNOW IT IS NONE OTHER THAN
GRACE COX

HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS

THE CEMETERY PROJECT

The aim of the Cemetery Project of our Society is to secure every possible burial record in Hendricks County from pioneer to present days. The method is careful scrutiny of every available stone, to copy full names with the day, month and year of birth in addition to relationship when given.

Cemetery records sometimes contain information on persons buried without stones. Grace Cox and Ruth Pritchard welcome information on Hendricks County burials to add to the several thousand inscriptions already recorded.

HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS

The Society extends sincere condolences to Roy and Frances Fisher on their recent bereavement. Her brother, Marvin Weaver, passed away February 19, and he is greatly missed by the Fisher family as well as by his many friends.

He was very special to Roy and Frances and their faithful devotion to him and their loving care has touched us all. He was a very interested member of our Society although frail health prevented him from taking an active part. An interesting article written by him appeared in one issue of The Bulletin, although he, himself, was too shy to submit it.

May Roy and Frances be comforted by our love and prayers and the thought that as long as we all stay close to God, we can never, even in death, be far apart.

NOW IS A GOOD TIME TO:

Read Psalm 117; to get busy on that garden;
lay in an extra supply of linament for sore
muscles; clean the gutters; continue to glory
in the Promise of Easter; marvel at the earth's
rebirth, the beauty of the flowers and the
budding of the trees; and say a prayer of
thankfulness.

NOW IS ALSO A GOOD TIME TO:

PAY
YOUR DUES
IF YOU HAVEN'T
ALREADY ...
\$3.00
IN CASE YOU
HAD FORGOTTEN.

HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS

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BELVILLE LYCIUM LIBRARY

The following document is brought to us by the courtesy of (who else?)
Ruth Pritchard:

Belville February 26th 1869

At a meeting of the Shareholders of the Belville Lycium Library held at Joseph Sawhead's Bar-room Mr. Jonathan Cope was chosen Chairman and Charles Wallace Clark. The members then proceeded to Elect by ballot seven Directors and adopted the above name -- There is 27 Shares taken at two dollars each making Fifty four Dollars. Twenty of the Shareholders being present at the meeting resulted in the Election of

Charles Wallace	18 votes	Cornelius Banta	13 votes
Jonathan Cope	17 votes	Risden C. Moore	12 votes
John W. Bryan	15 votes	Benjamin I. Young	11 votes
		John S. Hadley	11 votes

Attest Chr Wallace Clark

Affirmed before me the 26 day of Feb 1869

John W. Bryan Justice of the peace

Jonathan Cope Chair

(The above certificate Recorded March 2nd 1869)

Ruth thinks that possibly Joseph Sawhead's Bar-room might have been located where Big Bob Paine has his antique store at the intersection of U.S. 40 and State Road 39.

When I mention Ruth, it brings to mind a book she wrote in 1974 entitled HONORING OUR HERITAGE IN HENDRICKS. Every student of Hendricks County history should have a copy, and without her permission, I am going to snitch just one of the fascinating tales she tells of early life in Hendricks County.

THE OLSEN FACTORY

Charles J. Olsen's life story reads like that of Horatio Alger. As a young Swede, Mr. Olsen arrived in the United States and became a naturalized citizen. Subsequently he moved to Indiana.

Eventually, he settled in Pittsboro, working as a blacksmith. Later, in 1882, he established a small factory with a capital of one hundred dollars. He built wagons, buggies and carriages and made and repaired harness in one room, 20' x 30'. This soon grew into one of the town's largest and most prosperous businesses. It continued operation until the mid nineteen twenties. A larger building provided more floor space. Twenty-six skilled laborers were employed

manufacturing school wagons. These were shipped to many other states and were also sold locally. The Guilford Township trustee paid one hundred ninety three dollars for one of these wagons, September 11, 1909.

Mr. Olsen also built two automobiles. James Hughes, a farmer living between Tilden and Pittsboro, bought one of these cars. Mrs. Cordas Wilson of Brownsburg, a grand-daughter of James Hughes, owns a picture of this Olsen automobile. The second car manufactured at Olsen's shop was purchased by Jasper Swain of the Pittsboro community.

Advertisements in the "Pittsboro Sun" and other local papers stressed the high quality of workmanship which Mr. Olsen maintained. He guaranteed all his work and stated that "Only the best lines are carried and sold at reasonable prices." He was an outstanding example of the early industrialist who used his mechanical skill, native ability and determination to build a business that was well known throughout Central Indiana. Mr. Olsen's honesty and integrity indelibly stamped upon his associates and employees the virtues of these characteristics. His wide range of interest included auto racing and the development of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Frances Weaver Fisher remembers attending, as a teenage guest of Mr. Olsen, an early five-hundred mile race.

The Olsen Factory stood on South Maple Street in Pittsboro. It was sold in the late nineteen twenties to the firm of Williams and Welliver. A construction company used it for awhile. After the 1970 fire partially destroyed the building, it was razed to make way for the beautiful new Bank Building.

Hendricks County Marriage Record Book #9, page 404 certifies the marriage of "J. Charles Olsen to E. Louise Dillon on May 29, 1883." Miss Dillon was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Dillon, inn keepers in Pittsboro. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Olsen were parents of two sons, Urban and Clyde. Urban became a grocer in Pittsboro, and Clyde was a partner of his father. No descendants of this family now live in Pittsboro.

In the Hendricks County Naturalization Book on page 229 is the following information. March 21, 1888 (this has to be an error, should be 1889) August Olson reports for naturalization. He is a native of Sweden, age 22. He arrived in the United States, November 28, 1888. He renounced allegiance to Oscar II, King of Sweden and Norway.

William R. McClelland, Clerk

August Olson was a brother to Charles.

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