

The 19th Amendment



State of Indiana overlaid with the purple, white, and gold suffrage flag, indicating it was one of the original 36 states to ratify the 19th Amendment. (From the National Park Service, "Indiana and the 19th Amendment.")

"The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."

The 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States

The 19th Amendment was passed by Congress on June 4, 1919, but it would not become law until ratified by thirty-six states, a three-fourths majority.

Two months later, at the organizational meeting to the Hendricks County Federation of Women's Clubs: "Mrs. Joseph Ferree, county chairman of the Franchise League, read a petition which is to be presented to Representative Mendenhall asking for a special session of the legislature to ratify the Federal Suffrage Amendment. Most of the ladies present signed the petition."

Those petitions coming from all over Indiana had some influence. On January 16, 1920, a special session of the Indiana General Assembly provided the 20th vote for ratification. The necessary thirty-sixth vote came from Tennessee on August 18, and the 19th Amendment became part of the Constitution of the United States on August 26, 1920. On November 2, 1920, more than 8 million

women in the United States voted for the first time.

If you haven't seen the Women's Suffrage display at the museum, it will remain up through 2020.

Did you know ...?

- In the early 1800s, a husband had control over his wife's property and money, and her ability to sign legal documents.
- Women did not have legal custody of their own children. If the father died, another adult male would be appointed as the children's legal guardian.



The annual meeting for the museum will be held on Thursday, March 19 at 6 p.m. in the program room at the Danville-Center Township Library. New board members will be voted on. Only members of the museum may vote.

The missions of the Hendricks County Historical Museum is to collect, preserve and interpret items relating to the people, places and events of Hendricks County and to stimulate public interest in the heritage of the county through education, exhibits and special programs.

Jan 2020



Hendricks County Historical Museum

Newsletter

Inside this issue:

- DWTHCS 1
- Darning Egg 2
- Buddy Lee 2
- Marek Pottery 3
- 19th Amendment 4

Dancing with the Hendricks County Stars

Our kickoff for the 6th annual Dancing with the Hendricks Stars at Arthur Murray's Dance Center in Avon was such fun! This year's event will be held on Saturday, April 18, at the Hendricks County Fairgrounds Expo Hall in Danville. The theme is the "Roaring 20s" and the DWHCS committee is excited about what guests have called one of Hendricks County's leading fundraising efforts. We expect a sellout again with about 500 guests, dinner catered by The Coachman, a great silent auction and local dancers performing with their instructors. So, get your tickets early! Don't forget, as a Museum member, you will receive \$10 off ticket price for up to 2 tickets.

Dancers this year are Melanie Nichols, Plainfield Recreation & Aquatic Center; Arielle Brown, IU Health West; Britter Cook, Ray's Trash Service; Madison Henderson, Village of Avon; Suzanne Shafer, Shafer Collision and Republic Air; Chris Tincher, Chick-Fil-A Avon; John Unison, Hendricks Regional Health Physician; Steve Hite, Hendricks Power; and Ryan Morrison, Pastor of The Well Community Church.



Local dancers in this year's Dancing with the Hendricks County Stars

We have seen some pretty exciting and fun performances in each of the last five years and we look forward to seeing what these competitors will do. Tickets are \$65 each and available at our website: hendrickscountymuseum.org or by mailing your check to Hendricks County Museum, PO Box 226, Danville, IN 46122.



Marek Pottery Exhibit

Vera Curry is a long-time Brownsburg resident whose father, Jaroslav J. (Jerry) Marek created this beautiful deer as one of his many artistic pieces. Years ago, Vera donated this deer, one of their favorite pieces, to the Hendricks County Museum. She recently contacted the museum to donate more.

In 1922, Marek and his bride, Vlasta, sailed on their honeymoon to America from their homeland Czechoslovakia. They decided to stay and make this their home, eventually settling in Brownsburg.



After working at American Art Clay for several years, he started his own shop at his home in Brownsburg. He dug clay from his back yard, cleaned it, and used it to make the proper clay for his pottery. His sons built a brick building that was used as a kiln. His works were frequently marked with his signature, "J.J. Marek." The store was in operation until WWII began, and he could no longer get the chemicals needed to make the glaze.

Now 94 years of age, Vera has decided to share some other of her father's works with the public. When the museum re-opens in March, there will be a small display of Marek Pottery, on loan from Vera.



The Museum is currently closed for the winter while we clean and install new displays. When we reopen in March, we will showcase the Postal Department in the county from the earliest days to now. Also featured are five of our townships (Brown, Lincoln, Guilford, Liberty and Middle), including their school houses through the years. Year-books will be out—perhaps yours will be featured! We will continue our displays on Women Suffrage and Prohibition as both became law one hundred years ago. In the meantime, you can learn more about our exhibits, events, tours and membership by visiting us online at hendrickscountymuseum.org.

Indiana Memory Project

We have recently purchased a special scanner of the quality that will enable us to scan photographs in a way for the museum to participate in the Indiana Memory Project.

The Indiana Memory Project located at <https://digital.library.in.gov/> provides access to Indiana's history found in digitized books, manuscripts, photographs, newspapers, maps, and other media. It is a statewide collaborative effort to provide access to the wealth of historic information located in Indiana libraries, archives, museums, and other cultural institutions.

Projects like Indiana Memory provide a way for local libraries, museums, and archives to participate in preservation, and the Hendricks County Museum is proud to be a new part of this statewide effort. The numerous historic photographs and documents in the museum collection will be digitized and placed online under the repository of the INDIANA STATE LIBRARY.

Many of our local counterparts including (Brownsburg Public Library, Danville Public Library, and Plainfield-Guilford Township Public Library) already participate in the Indiana Memory Project. In doing so, they make their collections available to larger audiences. Additionally, the Indiana Memory Project has recently joined the Digital Public Libraries of America Collection. This collection collaboration will increase awareness of the Hendricks County Museum by making our digital historic collections easily accessible and free to a broader audience.

The Hendricks County Museum believes that any effort to preserve history and be a part of the statewide digitization collection is the best way to join forces and preserve the past. Below is the picture of Maurice and Marian Prebster, just one of vast collection.



Downtown Danville Partnership

We are excited with the progress with our house at 98 Broadway. With the help from a grant from Downtown Danville Partnership we have been able to add new gutters, a new front and storm door and the removal of an old shed on the property. A new furnace has been installed as well as items in the basement area taken care of. Still to do is the bathroom area, cleaning, painting and adding shelving. We also plan on doing some outside beautification. Stay tune as we look forward to the usage of our new home.

Darning Egg



The Hendricks County Historical Museum, former home to Hendricks County Sheriffs' families from 1866 to 1974, is mostly furnished as it would have been in the late 1800's. These sewing items are on the working surface of a manual treadle sewing machine displayed in a sewing nook in the bedroom. Here, the mother used it often to keep clothing items in good repair.

These sewing tools, a heart-shaped, crocheted pin cushion in the foreground and thread spools and thimbles on the tiny shelf tower, flank the black handled device in between. Many museum visitors understandably mistake this for a maraca. Why would a rhythm instrument be displayed with sewing paraphernalia? Good question.

This is actually a darning egg. In that time, socks were either hand knit or, if store-bought, were expensive, so keeping them in good repair was important. Sock darning (mending a hole) was made easier if this device was inserted into the toe or heel of the sock. The needle and thread would begin at one side of the hole, carried across to the other side to anchor, back and forth, side by side and then crisscrossed, weaving it to make a cloth-like repair. Clever, isn't it? I'll bet no one was allowed to slide across the room in their precious socks!

Buddy Lee

How cute is this little guy? He is one of the toys in the children's bedroom at the Museum. A recent accession into our collections, he was originally in the House of Hadley, a store on the north side of downtown Danville, probably in the 1940s, as an advertisement for Lee jeans. Buddy was used in advertising from 1920 to 1962. The Lee company encouraged stores to sell the dolls after the displays were taken down and they became so popular that more were produced for retail sale. Styles included dolls in various costumes, such as cowboy, a Coca Cola delivery man, railroad work and a gas station attendant.



By the time the Buddy Lee dolls were discontinued, they had become the second highest selling dolls in the United States. In addition to Buddy, the children's bedroom holds many toys from the 1800s.