

Update on DWTHCS

Dancing with the Hendricks County Stars Now a Silent Auction

Hendricks County Museum’s major fundraiser, “Dancing with the Hendricks County Stars 2020,” which had been rescheduled for August has been cancelled. And what a disappointment that is, although not surprising in this COVID-influenced world.

It is a hard hit financially, as we use the event proceeds for basic expenses such as our part-time administrator, office supplies, utility bills, and work being done on the small house we purchased last year for storing our historical items.



However, we are pleased to announce that we will still host our online silent auction July 15 -18.

The silent auction link can be accessed on the museum’s website www.hendrickscountymuseum.org and items will be available for viewing a few days earlier.

We have some very special items, some exciting experiences, and some handcrafted items. A quilt, made by Toni Waterman, was designed especially for this museum event, and several local artists who display at the Gallery on the Square have generously donated. Gina’s Creative Jewelry gave a lovely necklace and Mason’s Jeweler has an intriguing \$100 towards any item. Ace Hardware gave a large rolling tool center. Plus, there is so much more.

This is how you can support your museum! Please tell all your friends.

We are very grateful that several of our sponsors and some ticketholders have decided to donate their purchase price to the museum.

We look forward to our next “Dancing with the Hendricks County Stars” event scheduled for April 17, 2021, and we are thrilled to announce that our 2020 dancers, who have worked so hard, will be our 2021 cast! And, any donations or silent auctions items procured by dancers this year will be credited to them for 2021.

Be sure to go to our museum website to see all the wonderful, fun items, beginning Monday, July 13 that you can bid July 15 – 18! You can pick up your winnings on Sunday, July 19, 2:00 – 4:00 pm at your Hendricks County Museum (or by special arrangement).

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.



Hendricks County Historical Museum

Newsletter

Inside this issue:

- President’s Message 1
- Museum Reopening 2
- Hair Wreath 2
- 98 W. Broadway 2
- 1918 Flu 3
- Fireless Cooker 3
- DWTHCS Update 4

President’s Message

It has been nearly 17 weeks of social distancing and learning more about viruses than we non-medical types ever expected! There are a lot of things to learn from history of viruses, pandemics, plagues, public health, and human nature. The first book I read when I retired in 2019 was “In the Wake of the Plague: The Black Death and the World it Made” by Norman Cantor. Makes you wonder what they will be writing about us in 500 years. I saw a great suggestion that we write down for our children and grandchildren what this time is like. Maybe even create a type of family time capsule. I know I am interested in what life was like for my parents and grandparents during World War I and World War II. I wish I had listened more and asked more questions.

Back in February I certainly didn’t see a time when we would be figuring out just how to safely open the museum, although before COVID -19, the Board was working on virtual tours and venturing into the world of Instagram. We will continue to educate about and preserve our county history to the best of our abilities, even though it will look somewhat different than our more recent years.

Stay safe!

Pat Baldwin

President, Board of Directors
Hendricks County Historical Museum



Museum Open

We are pleased to announce that the museum reopened on June 19! We are now open Fridays and Saturdays from 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Being considerate of the current situation, we will be taking one group through at a time. Our new displays include a history of the Hendricks County Postal Department, as well as five feature exhibits on Brown, Guilford, Liberty, Lincoln and Middle Townships.

Hair Wreath

From the 1850s to the 1880s, a custom became popular to make a small decorative wreath from the hair of friends and family members. A smaller piece, like a brooch, might also be made. These were considered a good keepsake of love and friendship, like putting a lock of hair in a locket. The wreaths' flowers and designs were crafted using tatting and crocheting methods.



Sometimes it would be done to preserve the memory of deceased loved ones. However, this hair wreath was a friendship wreath. It was donated by Virginia Keeney Coates. It was given to her by her mother, Eldora Keeney, who lived with her grandparents, the Leaks, on the Leak Farm in Lizton. This decorative family heirloom was made in the late 1850s and now sits on the dresser in the adult bedroom of the Hendricks County Museum.

98 West Broadway Update

We are excited to have purchased a home for collections storage. Before we can transfer items, the house needs some sprucing up. A new furnace, new gutters, and restroom facilities are steps to bring the house in a better state. Volunteers have painted the steps and woodworking downstairs, the light fixtures have been cleaned and repaired, and the walls have been painted. Several young people volunteered their time to help, which we appreciate very much. If you're asking, "How can I help?" we need someone willing to mow the lawn. We plan to purchase shelving and in time, we will also need help transferring items from the museum. We will keep you posted and thank you for your support!

The 1918 Flu in Hendricks County

Just over 100 years ago, another flu pandemic added to the misery of a world already suffering through World War I. Beginning in 1918 and extending into 1919, an estimated fifty million people worldwide were killed by the flu. In contrast, the war killed approximately sixteen million.

The timing could not have been worse, as our country entered the war and sent our men off to training camps and on to crowded ships. In October of 1918, the *Republican* reported, "Death stalks through the training camps and influenza and pneumonia are claiming victims by the score." It was later realized that often what was diagnosed as pneumonia was really the flu. Half of the thirty Hendricks County men known to have been lost in the war died of either influenza or pneumonia.

Back home in Hendricks County, public meetings were cancelled and schools were closed. Soon after Danville schools closed, the *Republican* reported, "The scourge of influenza is here almost in every home where children were attending school."

Fireless Cooker



Ever wonder where the idea came for your crock pot? Possibly it was from this fireless cooker, an early version of today's crock pot.

A disk made from soapstone, known for its ability to hold heat, was heated on the stove and then placed in the bottom of the cooker's well. The food was first heated on the stove and then put in the cooker's aluminum pots on top of the hot stone and covered with an insulated lid. The food could be left unattended all day while other chores were done or could be prepared in the evening and left to cook overnight.

This fireless stove cooker was sometimes used as a thresher men's field food hot box. It would be taken out to the field where the threshers were working so they could have a hot meal during the day. What a great idea!