



Come Visit Us

Brownie Troop 663 recently enjoyed a tour of our museum and our new scavenger hunt!

Call the Museum to schedule your group's own private tour, 317-718-6158. Everyone who has visited has loved the experience! Our docents do a fantastic job!



What do Sixty-Cents, North Center, Rose Cottage, Wren, Pin Hook,

Mosquito Cottage, and Tilden have in common? Each were early school houses within Hendricks County.

Gail Tharp spent several years researching over the one hundred and fifty school houses and published "*Early Education in Hendricks County*." Her book is available at the Hendricks County Museum for \$20.

Looking to give back locally and make connections?

Become a volunteer

**Grant Writing, Event Planning,
Event Staffing
Connecting with us
on Social Media
"Muscles"- Event Set Up
and Event Take Down,
Decorating**

If interested, email
hcmuseum@co.hendricks.in.us
for this and other opportunities.



If you are interested in receiving your newsletter via email instead of snail mail, please contact the Museum, museum@co.hendricks.in.us, or call 317-718-6158.

Hendricks County Historical Museum News

May 2022



The mission 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.

President's Message

Dear Friends of the Museum

I'm reminded today that Spring weather is certainly changeable! And there is some truth to the old saying to not plant anything until Mother's Day weekend. Our gardens at the Museum are showing signs of coming out of a long winter and will be looking beautiful shortly. We owe that to a talented volunteer.

Which brings me to another important point. We want everyone who might like to volunteer to let us know! It can be a recurring assignment, such as guiding tours one day a month, or for an important one time event, such as DWHCS, or working behind the scenes, with options from cleaning and minor handyman jobs, to chairing an event or making an inventory of our collections, or researching a topic. 2 hours or 200 hours, we would love to have you. Drop an email at

hcmuseum@co.hendricks.in.us, or call 317-718-6158.

80 degrees predicted for Saturday!

Pat Baldwin

Museum Board President

You're Invited to a Teddy Bear Picnic

Saturday, June 4th, 2022

11 AM — 3 PM

Let's go on a bear hunt and learn the history of the Teddy Bear!

The Hendricks County Museum and the Danville Library are hosting this fun filled event. Bring a blanket and picnic lunch to enjoy on the Museum lawn. There will be a treasure hunt of teddy bears throughout the Museum and activities for young people. Ann Tussey and Gail Tharp are co-chairs.

317-718-6158



To the Editor:

You were kind enough to ask about my experiences working at the Museum. To give you a little backstory, I was fortunate enough to be hired the summer before I started high school to work at the Danville Public Library as a page. It was a wonderful “first job” experience and part of my duties involved working in the Indiana Room, the local history & genealogy collection. From there I became a member and volunteer for the Hendricks County Historical Society and, later, the Hendricks County Museum. They were two separate organizations and while there was definitely some overlap in the people involved, both groups really did have separate identities.

I volunteered at the museum during my high school years (the early 1980’s) and had the great fortune of working with the curator, Dorothy Kelley and her dedicated band of volunteers. The entire group brought such an incredible amount of energy, talent and dedication to the museum. Most of them were lifelong educators and they knew how to pack the most information into school tour, all while holding the kids enthralled. You won’t be

surprised that the jail cells were by far the biggest attraction. We often laughed and wondered if we might have deterred a few rascals from a life of crime by giving them a hard look at the jail cells!

Christmas open house was the most elaborate and labor-intensive event of the year. It lasted for several weekends in late Nov & Dec and involved hours and hours of work to decorate, plan displays, and prepare for the visitors. We usually had donated a fresh cut evergreen tree to use in the parlor. We decorated it with period decorations, most handmade by the volunteers,

We invite you to submit your memories of the Hendricks County Museum!

and used items from the collection to display as Christmas gifts around the tree. The rest of the building was also decorated with fresh greenery, ribbons, etc and there was always a different display organized around some aspect of the holidays. No matter how worn or battered the toy from the collection might be, it seemed to shine like new under that tree. A bit of



Christmas magic, perhaps?

Dorothy Kelley had a special recipe for a warm, spiced cider punch and most all the volunteers were excellent bakers—that meant homemade cookies and cider for the open houses! And the volunteers considered themselves duty bound to taste test before the doors opened, too.

After several years’ hiatus

I returned to volunteering at the museum. Dorothy and her crew were gone by then and were sorely missed. They made it all look so easy but everything took a great deal of work and planning. School tours continued, a central Indiana Model A club visited each summer, and we always made certain the museum was open during the years the Central Normal/Canterbury reunion occurred. A lot of hours were put into continuing to organize the collection as

Play Ball!

Below is a picture of a Danville Browns Baseball Team from probably the 1880’s. My grandfather



William Thompson is the player at the top of the stairs on the left. I am not sure of the exact year or know any of the other players in the picture. I also don’t know the location of the picture. Grandpa was born in 1866 so probably is around 20 or more years old in the picture. None of the other players have a mustache, so he is probably the oldest. William is the youngest brother of the six Thompson boys from Jesse and Rebecca Thompson. His

brother, Sam, was the fifth boy and he was born in 1860. Dad always said all the boys wore mustaches since their father was a Union soldier from 1861-65. CW veterans generally wore beards and their sons wore mustaches.

Grandpa Thompson did several jobs around town. He was a cook at a couple of restaurants but then became a baker and his bakery is still in existence in Danville today. It is located at the rear of his property which is one block north of the Mayberry Café. Not sure of the cross streets. He probably also holds the distinction of being the only Republican who didn’t win the sheriff’s race in the history of Hendricks County. He lost in the 1925 race. However, my other grandfather was elected sheriff in Hamilton County and became the first Democrat to ever win a county wide seat. He was defeated in 1927 and now is the only Democrat to ever hold a county wide seat in Hamilton County.

--Don Thompson

Visit [https://indianamemory.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16066coll71/search/searchterm/Big%20Sam for pictures of Sam Thompson](https://indianamemory.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16066coll71/search/searchterm/Big%20Sam%20for%20pictures%20of%20Sam%20Thompson)



Hendricks County once had at least three canning factories, providing income to many farmers and townspeople. One was in Brownsburg from 1893 until the mid-1950’s. A Brownsburg item in a September 1893 issue of *The Republican* announced, “Our canning factory is a joy forever to the people of our town. Fifty thousand cans, mostly of corn, have already been put up.”



Board of Directors

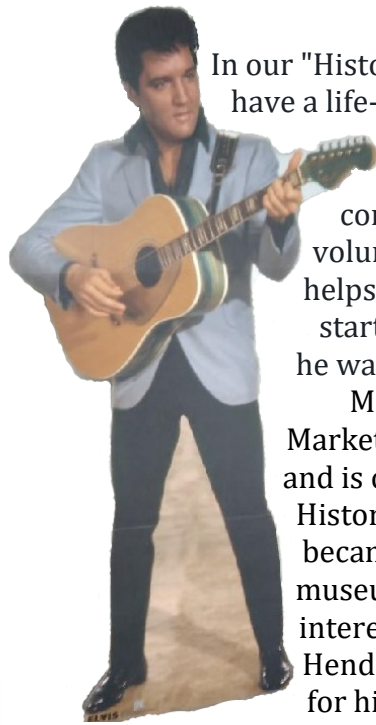
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Newsletter Editor: Emily Hansen



A big welcome to Diane Marlin Coiro of Avon to the Hendricks County Historical Museum Board! Diane is the great, great, great granddaughter of Sampson Sanders and Sarah Russel, who got their marriage license in Hendricks in 1832. She has been a volunteer for the museum since 2019. Diane brings years of experience in nonprofit development to the museum.



In our "History in Music" display, we have a life-size cutout of Elvis. It is rather surprising when you come around the corner and see it. One of our volunteers, Mark Belloni, who helps with scanning, was startled by it, and as he tells it, he was "All Shook Up"!

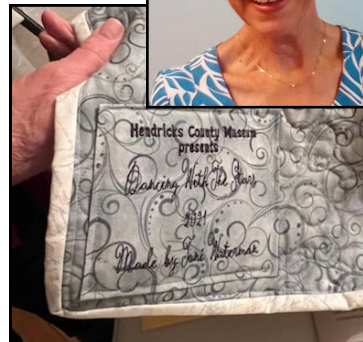
Mark works at IU in Marketing & Communications and is completing his MA in History part-time at IUPUI. He became involved with the museum because his research interests revolve around Hendricks County. The research for his master's degree focuses on the history of the landscape of Hendricks County. Additionally, Mark and his fiancée are currently restoring an 1880 farmhouse in Brownsburg, so a lot of his interest in Hendricks County history comes from that, too.

Come by and see this impressive display!

Board member "retires"

We bid a fond farewell to Deanna Hindsley. The most recent board meeting was Deanna's last as a board member! For all of her continued hard work, the board presented her with a quilt made by Toni Waterman.

Toni has repeatedly donated her quilts to the Dancing with the Hendricks County Stars' silent auction.



Memory Lane...

well as expand it. In the days before affordable computers that meant card files, indexing and lots and lots of paper.

The museum continues to benefit from a phenomenal group of volunteers. Is it the building or the collection that inspires such dedication? Or maybe it's just the knowledge we all have that making a connection with the past, no matter how fleeting, enriches the life you lead today. Everyone involved with the museum today already knows that but it's rewarding to witness a visitor learn that lesson or themselves.

—Libbe Hughes

Libbe is the Master Gardener responsible for the beautiful gardens we see every year! Thank you, Libbe!!



While working on the new Hendricks County Jail Sheriff Brett Clark, Hendricks County Facilities Manager Kevin Cavanaugh, and contractors from Garmong came by to learn about the history of the old jail.

dancing
with the hendricks county stars

Buy your tickets soon!
They are selling quickly!

**Thank You to Our
Current Sponsors**



Did You Know....

Your Hendricks County Museum reaches out into the community to share its history. Located at the top of the second floor in the Danville-Center Township Library is a glass case with a rotating display. Currently displayed is information about James Whitcomb Riley and his connection to Danville.



Mark Howell, who has the geology business, Xenon Geology Science, next to the museum, made the Little Library that is in front of the Museum. Mark is our friendly neighbor and offers to help whenever needed. Thank you, Mark!

At the entrance of the offices at the Town Hall is a large glass case where the two Hendricks County Basketball kegs are showcased along with many other county items.



Great job to Cascade Middle School Students for their work creating *Secrets of the Shelf*, a movie showcasing historical items from the Hendricks County Historical Museum. The Danville Royal Theater had a special showing of the movie on March 15th. Approximately 140 people attended and many families went over to the Museum and Danville Dips afterwards.

Photo recognition software benefits genealogists

We are excited to share the news that Virginia Tech Professor, Dr. Kurt Luther, reached out to Linda Cook recently regarding our contribution to the Indiana Memory Project. Linda, who is a Professional Genealogist and member of the Museum Board of Directors, manages the Digital Collections for the museum.

Dr. Luther and his team at Virginia Tech have created photo recognition software to use in the process of identifying previously unidentified Civil War photographs. The Virginia Tech team is investigating how preservation projects, like the Hendricks County Museum Digital Collection, can benefit genealogists.

Dr. Luther and his team hope to apply some of the similarities used in the Hendricks County Historical Museum project in their own training, identification, data entry, and preservation of photographs in order to benefit genealogists as a research tool.

Dr. Luther's project can be located at the website, Civil War Photo Sleuth. <https://www.civilwarphotosleuth.com/>

Our own project is located through the **museum website** or at: <https://indianamemory.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16066coll71>

Historically valuable photographs and documents in the museum's collection have been preserved and made available to the public by an amazing and knowledgeable digital team.

Anyone interested in genealogy and family research should view the collection. We are consistently adding new content. For more information about the project please contact Linda at the Hendricks County Historical Museum.



Henry B. Leak, 54th Indiana Infantry Volunteer. Courtesy of Hendricks County Museum Collections



Afternoon Tea
August 20th
Look for more info
on Facebook soon!

Stay Informed:
www.hendrickscountymuseum.org

 Or find us on Facebook and Instagram!

 Instagram