

# Hendricks County Museum News

February 2023

*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 Hendricks County Museum

It is hard to explain how busy we are while the Museum is "closed" for the winter. Christmas decorations had to be taken down and put away, the 2023 display is being researched and prepared, we are working on updating contact information for our members and volunteers, pictures and documents are still being scanned and our museum software program is being updated. Of course there is cleaning, and working on the inside of the storage house to be able to move more items to it.

The Dancing with the Hendricks County Stars committee is in full swing. We still have email and phone messages that we keep up with and are already working with groups who want to tour come Spring. So I hesitate to call the Museum "closed" for the Winter. Just like the earth, it is more like a season of preparing.

—Pat Baldwin



## Please welcome our new employees!

*(Editor's Note: We have hired two part-time employees, Shawn Burcham and Melody Enz. Both ladies are invaluable to the Museum, with all of their talents, experience, and dedication to preserving Hendricks County History. Here's what they have to say about themselves.)*



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### Shawn Burcham, MLIS

My professional background is all over the place! I have a BS in Apparel Merchandising from IU and worked in retail for about 3 years before moving to Indy

where I began working for a non-profit. I stuck with non-profits for about 12 years, then worked with my husband for a few years at his painting business. I love learning so I took a Creative Writing class which rekindled my love for reading and books, and I began working at Brownsburg Public Library in 2017. That's where I met Linda Cook who is also a museum volunteer and board member. She became not only a dear friend, but also a wonderful mentor.

I went back to school and earned a Master's in Library and Information Science in 2019. Linda and I left the library in 2020. She helped the Museum get

involved with Indiana Memory, the digital archive project through the Indiana State Library. She asked if I would be interested in helping scan Museum photos, tag them with metadata and upload to the Indiana Memory website. I started doing that in late 2020. Through researching information on

*(continued on page 2)*

### Melody Enz

My family has lived in Avon for 32 years and I didn't know there was a County Museum until I attended an event where groups from Hendricks County were looking for volunteers. I visited the museum booth and the rest is "history". I have been volunteering at the museum for 4 years now and have loved every minute.

I've always been a big fan of history, love genealogy work, and museums are a must when I'm on vacation. My favorite project at the museum is digital scanning of photographs but I have also helped with displays and Christmas decorating. I love to see people come in to the museum and see things they recognize from their childhood.



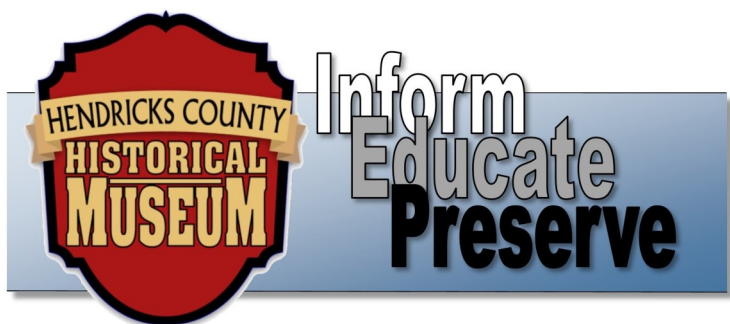
*Top: The newly christened "History Wall", is located at the Northwest entrance of Hendricks Regional Health in Danville. Bottom, left, Dr. Lloyd Terry's doctor's bag; right, Keith Baldwin's red jacket. These items are on loan from the Museum.*

**Shawn.....***(continued from page 1)*

the photos I scanned, I discovered that I really loved learning about the history of Hendricks County and its people.

When Hendricks Regional Health reached out to the Museum for assistance in researching their archives for information for their 60th anniversary celebration in 2022, Linda asked if I would be interested. I agreed even though I had never overseen a project with that sort of scope. For around 6 months, I worked in the organization's basement sorting through around 40 boxes of archives. In addition, I visited local libraries and online repositories to learn more about the hospital's history. After I had reviewed all the archives, the hospital asked if I would be willing to help compile artifacts for their newly built display cases. I spent 3 months on the displays that were unveiled at a special ceremony in December. It was hard work, but very worth it! The hospital opened in 1962, but I discovered documents that traced the very beginnings of the hospital back to 1957 when Muriel Blair first proposed the idea of a county hospital at a Hendricks County Federated Clubs meeting. I helped the hospital locate Muriel's grandchildren and they attended the celebration in December. It was really special for me to watch them view the display with Muriel's picture and notes in it.

Through my volunteer work with the Museum and my research for Hendricks Regional Health, I realized that I could potentially have a career in archives. In the summer of 2022, I enrolled in the Archive Management graduate certificate program through IU. I'm presently in my third class (of six) toward the certificate. I was both fortunate and grateful when the Museum allowed me to do a Digital Archives internship in Fall 2022. I learned a lot about the collections at the museum, how the museum operates, and the value of the museum in the community, as they help preserve local history and genealogy. I also have come to know several of the great volunteers there with whom I really enjoy working. The Museum elected to keep me on staff at least through April, as an Archives Collection Specialist. My goal (for now) is to organize family collections, and ensure their artifacts, documents, and photos are in the collection management software (PastPerfect.) By doing this, we will have ready access to information for anyone doing research on a specific family. There is the potential for bringing this all online, but we aren't quite ready for that yet. The Museum has so many precious and interesting items in their collection and I hope that my work can help bring this to light so everyone in the community can see the Museum for the gem that it is.

**Board of Directors**

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Newsletter Editor: Emily Hansen



The cost of printing and mailing our quarterly newsletter has raised considerably, due to the fact that Rex Wilson, of Wilson Printing, has retired, and the rising costs of stamps and envelopes. We are grateful to Rex for his help throughout the years and wish him the best of health and happiness.

We will be sending out our newsletter electronically to all of our Museum members who have email addresses. We are asking your help in providing us with your email address, should you not have done so already. If you are a member and prefer receiving a printed copy, please contact the Museum with your current mailing address.

You can email us at [hcmuseum@co.hendricks.in.us](mailto:hcmuseum@co.hendricks.in.us) or call us at 317-718-6158. Please note the Museum is now closed for the winter, until March 17, 2023.



*Members of the Board heard the presentations from the IUPUI class on Museums and governance and long range planning. We were thrilled to participate in this educational opportunity!*

**Donating this way is easy!****1. Create a digital account.**

A digital account is needed to participate in Kroger Community Rewards. If you already have a digital account, simply link your Shopper's Card to your account so that all transactions apply toward the organization you choose.

**2. Link your Card to an organization.**

Selecting the organization that you wish to support is as simple as updating the Kroger Community Rewards selection on your digital account.

**1. Sign in to your digital account.****2. Search for your organization.**

**3. Enter the name or NPO number of the organization you wish to support.**

**4. Select the appropriate organization from the list and click "Save".**

Your selected organization will also display in the Kroger Community Rewards section of your account. If you need to review or revisit your organization, you can always do so under your Account details.

That's it! It's THAT easy!!

# Know Your Towns...



## Danville, Indiana (Center Township):

Established in 1834 as the county seat of Hendricks County, Danville has always been the heart of the county's government.

Selected because of its location in the center of the county, Danville is home to the Hendricks County Courthouse. The current courthouse, erected in 1912 is actually the 4th building the served in this capacity. According to the book "Danville" (authored by Jeff Baldwin) the first courthouse was a log structure built around 1826, followed by a wood frame building used between 1832-1858. Then came an elaborate brick Gothic Revival styled building that was erected between 1859-1863. This building came to an unfortunate end on January 12, 1912, when the roof over the 2nd floor courtroom collapsed. After inspection, it was decided to raze the building and construct a new courthouse. The 4th building's (the current one) cornerstone was laid on May 20, 1913 and this has been Hendricks County's government home since then. As progress happened, an annex was needed and the former Center Township School/South Elementary (built in 1928 and stopped being used as a school in 1994) was retrofitted to accommodate some of the government offices (355 S. Washington St.).

The old Hendricks County Jail (170 S. Washington St.) was constructed in 1866 and served as a jail and Sheriff's residence until 1974. The Hendricks County Museum now occupies the building. Visitors to the museum can venture into the old jail cells, as well as experience different eras in the rooms of the residence.

Danville is host to many events throughout the year, including fall festivals around the courthouse square, a farmer's market, Christmas Wonderland at Ellis Park, Fourth of July concert and fireworks, and the Hendricks County Fair.

Many residents and visitors enjoy the variety of restaurants in Danville, including the Mayberry Café, Courthouse Grounds, Frank's Place, the Bread Basket, the Bee Hive, Two Guys Pies, and Dips Ice Cream.

# Dancing with the Hendricks County Stars set for May 20th!!

This year's annual fundraiser will be held on May 20 at the Hendricks County Fairgrounds Expo Hall. We are so grateful to be able to have our event at the Fairgrounds, as the staff is always so helpful to us.

Theme for this year is Black and White, and many plan to dress according to the theme, although it's not mandatory. Wear your favorite dressy outfit!

Dinner will be catered by our loyal friends at The Coachman, featuring their famous prime rib dinner, back by popular demand, among other offerings. There will also be a great silent auction, wine pull, dessert dash, and a photo booth.

And most importantly, the dance performances! Dancers are busy taking lessons at Arthur Murray Dance Center, getting silent auction items, and seeking sponsorships from various companies throughout our great county.

All this is to purchase supplies, support our parttime employees, and provide even more upgrades to our storage house at 98 W. Broadway, which was purchased in 2019 with funds raised over the years by "Dancing with the Hendricks County Stars".

Tickets are available at the museum website or by mailing \$75 per ticket to the museum. And if you want to support a dancer, you can indicate your favorite. If you are a museum member, you may put in your special code - "member" - to get \$5 off your ticket purchase. Not a member yet? Now's a great time to join!

We are so excited about this year's show! See you there on May 20!

**Here are the dancers you will see at this year's**



 Jenna Berry — Danville Regional Rehab	 Moret Bowling — Hendricks Regional Health
 Joe Brooks — Electric Plus	 Kristy Cheek — Bogan Eyecare Center
 Brett Clark — Retired Hendricks Co. Sheriff	
 McKenzie Crose McKenzie Crose Ins. Agency	 Dianne Frewer — A Fitting Creation
 Kevin Miller — IU Health West	
 Angela Jenkins — The Edge Hair Salon	 Jeremy Miers — Brownsburg Meadows
 Kevin Miller — North Salem State Bank	

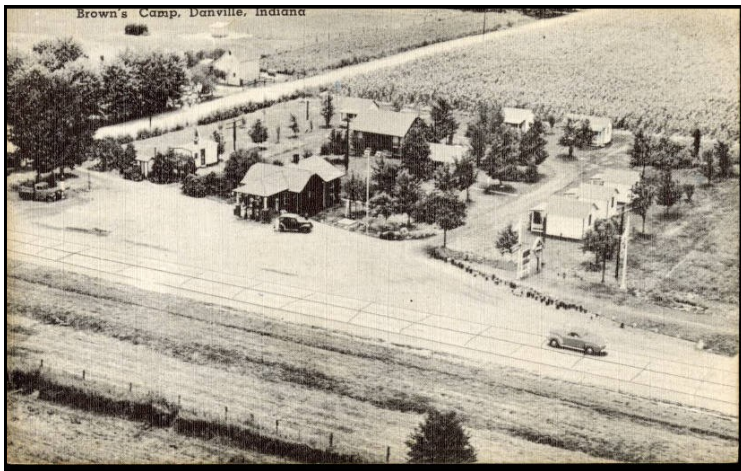


## SECRETS ON THE SHELF

**FREE SCREENING!**  
**Wed., March 15, 2023, 6-7:30 PM**  
**Presented at the Danville Royal Theater,**  
**located on the Danville Town Square**

**A documentary of the  
Hendricks County Historical Museum  
by Cascade Middle School**





In response to our previous issue's inquiry about the history of Brown's Camp, Betty Bartley at *The Republican* did some exploring and gave us more insight as to this postcard that is one of many in our digital collection, <https://hendrickscountymuseum.org/digital-collections/> Thank you Betty!

### “Tourist Camps Were Popular Stops”

“Emily Hanson [sic], a volunteer at the Hendricks County Museum sent us this picture postcard of Brown's Camp at Danville, Indiana, dated 1848. She said it was supposed to be located 12 miles west of Danville.

A quick look in the index to History of Hendricks County, 1914-1976, found the answer was in the Hugh C. Brown family. Hugh's son Walter, and his wife, Iola, built and operated Brown's Motel and Service Station between Danville and Avon, along U.S. 136.

The postcard shows the camp with a service station at the entrance to the camp, surrounded on three sides by “tourist cabins”.

Beginning in the 1920's, tourist camps, or auto camps, began to appear along major highways. The advent of the automobile brought a newfound wanderlust to their owners. In Indiana, the highways where tourist camps were commonly found included the National Road (U.S. 40), the Lincoln Highway (U.S. 30), and the Pike's Peak Ocean-to-Ocean Highway, also known as the Rockville Road or U.S. 36.”

## CANDLELIGHT TOUR 2022

Top: The Treblemakers treated visitors with traditional songs.

Bottom left: Lt. Jeff Hughes greeted guests in the old office and the jail; Bottom right: Deanna Hindsley tells visitors about the Parlour.



The 3rd annual Candlelight Tour was well attended! The Museum closed for the season after the event. Christmas decorations were taken down and put away, and the Museum got a spring cleaning, early! Marty Carter is busy preparing our new Exhibit, Hoosier Homesteads of Hendricks County. Thank you to all “behind the scene” volunteers who keep the Museum going!!



## Was John Dillinger ever a prisoner in the Hendricks County Jail?

No. However, according to an item in a 1934 issue of *The Republican*: “Danville can boast that Mrs. Mary Kinder, the gangster moll, captured with the notorious Dillinger gang in Tucson, Arizona last week spent most of the summer of 1932 right here, put up at Sheriff Lewis Pounds' two-story red brick hostelry at the corner of Washington and Broadway Streets. She spent most of her time reading and looking out at the beautiful sunshine through iron bars.”

Mary was a native of Morgan County, Indiana. At one point her husband, her lover Harry Pierpont, her brother, and her brother-in-law were all incarcerated at Michigan City. She was accused of assisting Dillinger in the escape of eleven members of his gang from prison. She was one of only two women listed on the “Chicago Public Enemies List” in 1933.

Come and discover more interesting Hendricks County facts displayed throughout the Museum! Museum hours starting March 17, are Fridays and Saturdays, 11 AM to 3 PM.

JOIN US!

