

# Hendricks County Museum News

November 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

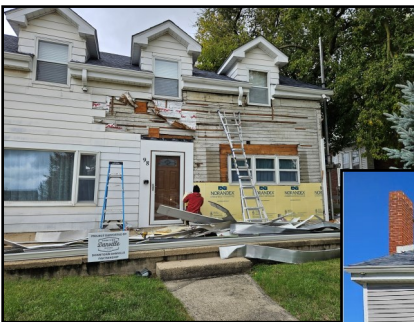
Dear Friends of the Hendricks County Museum,

The Friends of the Hendricks County Museum have been busy (as always!). We had our lovely tea in August, and a Road Rally in October which included everything from a pre-Civil War ditch to a one room schoolhouse, and we participated in Scarecrows on the Square.

We are always happy to welcome back our repeat Rally participants, it really is a fun way to spend a Fall morning. We have been adding more pictures to Indiana Memory and some of our Past Perfect collection information is now online. After diligently filling out a lot of paperwork for grants we have been awarded one from the Indiana Historical Society for caring for our textiles, and another AARP grant for working with schools. And last year's AARP grant is almost complete, the new siding is up at our storage house at 98 West Broadway, which will help protect our approximately 160 year old building and looks nicer than the worn out mid century aluminum siding. Our year is not ready to close just yet, we still have Scares on the Square October 28, decorating for Christmas, the Tree Lighting in Danville Nov. 24 at 6:30 p.m., and our Candlelight Tour December 9, 5-7 p.m. We hope to see you in person or have you check out our photos online!

—Pat Baldwin, President

The Museum is taking a lead role in preparing for the Hendricks County Bicentennial in 2024. We are preparing a County Timeline, and filming short talks about significant events. The website [Hendricks200.com](http://Hendricks200.com) has more information on what is happening, and will add content throughout the end of 2023 into 2024. There will be many opportunities for people to help with events, and for groups to plan their own ways to celebrate the county.



PROJECT SUPPORTED BY



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*The building at 98 Broadway got a facelift! For more information on the history of this home, go to our Facebook page and read all about it! Thank you Downtown Danville Indiana for supporting this project with a façade grant.*



Christmas is coming soon to the museum! The **week of November 6** is decorating week. Volunteers will be getting Christmas decorations out on Monday,

ready for volunteers to begin decorating on Tuesday, **November 7**, and the rest of that week as necessary. We always need willing hands and good ideas, so call or email the museum if you would like to help.

**November 24**, the day after Thanksgiving, is Danville's traditional beginning of the Christmas season. The event takes place from 4-7 p.m., with the tree lighting at 6:30 p.m. on the Square. The Museum and businesses will be decorated and open. *Volunteers are needed at the museum from approximately 4:00 to 6:15*, the time that the Museum will be open for the festivities.

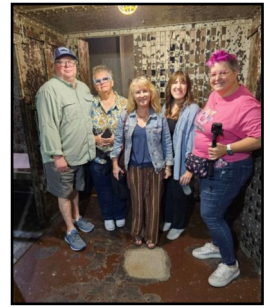
The museum's annual Candlelight Christmas Tour will be Saturday, **December 9**, from 5 to 7 pm. This is always a beautiful evening, and once again an opportunity to volunteer. **December 16** will be the last day the museum is open in 2023, and then it is time to prepare for 2024, Hendricks County's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday year!



Did you know that on December 20, 1823, the Indiana General Assembly decreed that as of the first of April, 1824, Indiana would have a new county, to be called Hendricks County?



Our friends at Visit Hendricks County brought a group of travel writers and bloggers from all over the Midwest in for a tour of our Museum. Their favorite things ranged from the jail, the kitchens, and the children's room, to the old light switches.



(Left photo) Ben Neilson's Cascade Middle School History class started preparing for next year's Secrets on the Shelf with a visit to the Museum late August.

Look for Secrets on the Shelf in March, 2024 at Danville Royal Theater (photo courtesy of The Republican)



(Right photo) Sally Lawson greets third grade students from Avon schools who toured the Museum at the beginning of the

(Above photo) While visiting the Hendricks County fairgrounds be sure to check out the display case celebrating our county's Bicentennial. October celebrated James Whitcomb Riley and his history with Danville. November's display is "Fall Harvest"; December, "Toys throughout the years and the our county's beginning". January's display will be "First settlement of the county pioneers near Plainfield".

These displays are presented by the volunteers of the Hendricks County Museum

(Right photo) The Museum participated once again in the Scarecrows on the Square contest with this pumpkin designed by Diane Coiro, Museum Board Member.



### Board of Directors

- Pat Baldwin, President, Danville
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Newsletter Editor: Emily Hansen

# Car Rally Fun!





The committee for Dancing with the Hendricks County Stars 2024 is just beginning to plan. The event will be on **May 4, 2024** at the Hendricks County Fairgrounds. We are proud to announce that this event is an official event of the Hendricks County Bicentennial!



# Know Your Towns...

## Hazelwood, Indiana (Liberty Township)

Originally known to locals as “Buzzards Roost” the town of Hazelwood’s post office was established on January 25, 1884. Of course, the area had been settled long before this,



*Hazelwood High School Boys' Basketball Team  
1914-15, c. 1920  
Indiana Memory Hosted Digital collections*

with one of the more prominent families being that of Daniel Hazlewood.

(Notice the spelling difference — somewhere along the line when the post office was being established, the spelling of Hazlewood was transposed to Hazelwood. General consensus from newspaper accounts lay blame on the Federal Government for the error, but it was never corrected and so the town of Hazelwood is spelled with “el” instead of “le”).

By 1909, Hazelwood had an active business center at the crossroads of County Road 0 and County Road 1000 South. Businesses included three general stores, a bank, a sawmill, a telephone exchange, a blacksmith shop and a doctor. The Baptist and Christian congregations had churches, as did the Society of Friends.

Today, Hazelwood is more well-known for its fabulous annual Fish Fry, which benefits the volunteer fire department. Many come far and wide to enjoy the fun of this summertime event.



\* Designed by TownMapsUSA

## Pittsboro living over one hundred fifty years ago

As the recent road rally took us through the northern townships, including the area one known as “the black swamp”, I was reminded of the words of S. S. Waters for Pittsboro’s centennial in 1934, printed in the *Danville Gazette*.

As he arrived in Pittsboro as a child in the late 1860’s... “A virgin forest of beeches, oaks, and elms grew all around the house. There were ponds of water filled with shiny moss-grown logs on every side of the house except the front. On the stump of a gigantic elm they unloaded the feather beds, the clock and the mirror to the old bureau while other things were deposited in the house... Sister Fannie and I were sent on an errand to Uncle John’s, next house west, and we walked on fallen logs to keep out of the water. But the days grew warmer and the ponds dried up and father and mother began to prepare a garden and set out gooseberries and currants and a rosebush and flowering almond, offshoots from plants that had grown in her mother’s home in

Kentucky. I have wondered many times since how they possibly did it, but somehow they managed. Our story was the same as the other scattered families in town. The men worked from sun to sun, but the women’s work was never done. There was washing and ironing and sewing by hand, making soap, piecing quilts, cooking, baking, making garden, raising chickens and nursing sick children. All under the most adverse conditions and on the verge of poverty. What unseen force was driving them on and on and on?”

—Marty Carter

The cost of printing and mailing our quarterly newsletter has raised considerably. Therefore we are sending it out 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.

Email us at [hcmuseum@co.hendricks.in.us](mailto:hcmuseum@co.hendricks.in.us) or call 317-718-6158.

As incentive, email subscribers will enjoy a “special addition” from time to time.

**DON'T BE LEFT HANGING!**

**Stay informed!**

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Or on Facebook and Instagram!



Instagram

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# A brief history of the Hoosier Cabinet

A true “must have” of a 1920s kitchen was the Hoosier cabinet. The idea built behind this popular cabinet was that a worker is only as efficient as her workplace. This cabinet was so much more than just a storage cabinet, it included storage, appliances and much more!

## What Does “Hoosier” Mean?

The word Hoosier has been tied to the state of Indiana for over 150 years. There are several theories about its origin, one of them involves people yelling “who’s there?” across the river and the other is of a man who lost his ear in a bar fight and someone unfortunately picked it up and asked, “who’s ear?” Both circumstances sound similar to the term “Hoosier”.



*The Hoosier Cabinet displayed in the Museum's Early Kitchen*

So, what does the term have to do with the Hoosier cabinet? The cabinet got its name because most of them were made in Indiana. The first Hoosier cabinets appeared in 1898, created by a furniture company called Sellers, in New Castle, Indiana. Popularity of the cabinet grew up until the late 1940's when the records for the cabinets became scarce.

## What Is in a Hoosier Cabinet?

You may be thinking that this was just an average cupboard, but back in the 1920's, this was much more. This cabinet had storage for staples like flour, sugar and spices as well as workable parts like flour sifters, meat grinders, spice carousels, grocery list wheel, nutritional charts and cookbook holders. The Hoosier cabinet was made to speed up meal delivery by having everything you need in one place.

Depending on the manufacturer, the era, and the options purchased, there's quite a bit of variation in the design of antique baking cabinets.

- A classic Hoosier-style cabinet was six feet tall by four feet wide and about two feet deep.
- Antique Hoosier cabinets were mostly made of oak, but could also be made of pine, or in later years - enamel.
- At their most basic, they include a lower portion with

storage drawers and cabinets, a work surface for kneading bread or mixing up dinner, and an upper hutch portion for additional storage.

- Some drawers are lined with tin.

There should be built-in accessory pieces like a flour sifter, spice rack, or dish rack.

## Hoosier Cabinet Accessories

Many collectors feel the real charm of a Hoosier cabinet comes from its accessories, of which there were many.

According to Indiana Public Media, some of the following options were especially popular:

- A flour bin that was combined with a sifter, allowing the user to place a bowl under the hopper to receive sifted flour
- A sugar sifter and storage unit for granulated sugar
- Racks and compartments for every imaginable baking supply and tool
- Glass canisters and spice jars for storing supplies, many made by the Sneath Glass Company (Hartford City, IN)
- Pot racks and hooks for pans
- Pull-out bread boards
- Built-in ant traps
- Pull-out storage bins for produce and pantry staples
- Desk with writing surface and storage
- Collapsible ironing board

Come to the Museum and explore the Early Kitchen to see what life was like in the early 1900's!!



*Hoosier Cabinet advertisement, from the Saturday Evening Post, October 7, 1922*



**Do you have a Hoosier Cabinet in your home? Send us a picture and the history behind it and we'll put it in the newsletter!**

**[hcmuseum@co.hendricks.in.us](mailto:hcmuseum@co.hendricks.in.us)**

## ONLINE SPECIAL BONUS EDITION!

While looking for articles and information to post in this edition of the Hendricks County Museum newsletter I came across a treasure of a book, written in 1914, by the Hon. John V. Hadley. From the moment I started reading, I was captivated! I am amazed at all the research that went into this book. Perhaps you will recognize some names here!

As I burrowed deeper into the book, I knew I had to share bits and pieces now and then to our online newsletter subscribers. The 980-page book is at the Museum, should you want to take a peek at it. I found several versions of it online, this one being through the Indiana Historical Print Collection, *History of Hendricks County Indiana, Her People, Industries and Institutions*. <https://indianamemory.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p1819coll6/id/47706> —eah

# An Old Resident's Idea of Early Danville

From the manuscript of H. Henry, one of the first men in Danville, the following is taken:

"I came to Danville in August, 1858. That year was, in the language of the farmers, a wet year. The train upon which we came waded through what Major Verbrake would have called 'a wilderness of mud and water' and it made the trip from Cincinnati to Cartersburg in eight hours, which was considered fast time in those days. Coming up to town from Cartersburg in Keeney's hack, I had for fellow passengers Professor Tarr and Clint Petty. The Professor was on his first trip to town to make arrangements to organize the Danville Academy. He was dressed as a minister and was full of missionary zeal. I was loaded for Indians and wild game, and carried a double-barreled shot-gun. Petty was armed with a stone pipe, loaded with long-range tobacco, and, being on his own native soil, he 'got the drop' on the bear hunter and the missionary at once. The Professor looked at my gun and turned up his nose at Petty's pipe, which had made him seasick, while he said, 'Please, sir, do not smoke the pipe in this hack.' Petty answered, 'Stranger, I will compromise with you. I will hold my head outside of the window.' The Professor looked at me and my gun as if he wished to shoot the pipe, but I never said a word. I became a silent partner in the compromise with the ways of the wild and woolly west.

"On our arrival in town we were met by the immortal Boone O'Haver, who was the self-appointed keeper of the gates of the city. Boone directed Professor Tarr to the home

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*Boone O'Haver was a prominent figure in the early history of Danville, Indiana. He was born in 1825 and was one of the first settlers in the area. O'Haver was a farmer and a businessman, and he played an important role in the development of the town. He was also involved in local politics and served as a member of the town council.*

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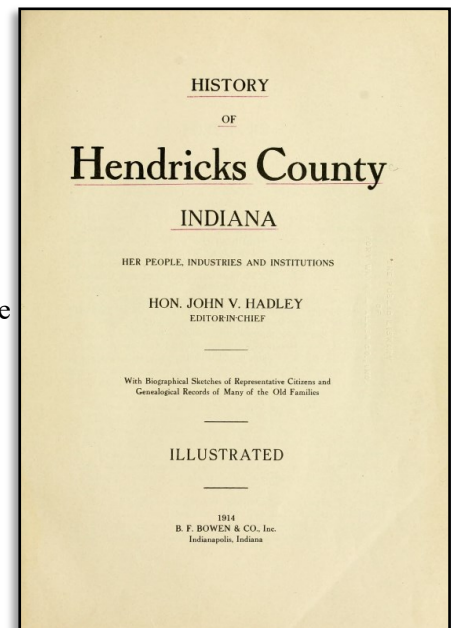
of a good Methodist brother. Then he took my gun in his hands and escorted me and the oil-cloth carpet sack over to Henry Howell's grocery on the east side of the square, where he introduced me to the 'boys.' Boone gave me a hearty reception. He went in the grocery and brought out a mammoth watermelon and cut it and made the usual mistake of quoting Scripture and crediting it to Shakespeare, by saying to the crowd: 'Come unto me all ye that are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest.'

"The first thing I remember concerning politics after coming to Danville was a joint discussion between Martin M. Ray and Albert G. Porter. The slavery question was, of course, the bone of contention. The orators talked much about 'border ruffians' and 'bleeding Kansas' and had much to say

about 'squatter sovereignty.' After the speaking, a tramp shoemaker named Cary Maul, who had gathered the impression that 'squatter sovereignty' was an individual, a bully who had set down on all the government lands in the West and had caused all the political troubles, declared that he would go to Kansas and 'put a hole through Old Squatter Sovereignty.' He added that if Nebraska Bill did not look out he would get shot, too.

"James Peters, a journeyman musical instrument maker, who made dulcimers for Vinson Hamblin in Samuel Hawkins' chair shop, was a genius that only a Charles Dickens

could describe properly. He resembled Julius Caesar. He was a college graduate and had, before coming to Danville, been a clerk of a court in Ohio. Peters had met a disappointment in love and had made an unsuccessful effort to drown his sorrows in opium and liquor. One day, while under the influence of liquor, he threw a bucket and a bundle of ax-handles through the show-window of a drug store and would have painted the town red if it had not been for the officers of the law. When the marshal and his deputies arrived at Squire Singer's office with Peters there was a large crowd there to see the fun. The Squire was scared and his hand trembled so that he was unable to write. Peters stood before the court with the skirt of his blue cloth coat, which the officers had torn while making the arrest, dragging on the floor. He said in a voice which would have done credit to Edwin Forrest, addressing the crowd, 'We did not come here to praise Caesar, but to bury him.' Then he walked around the railing and took the pen out of the trembling hand of the justice and made the necessary entries on the docket, instructed the prosecutor as to his duties, worked in the capacity of attorney for both sides of the case and so expedited the business of the court that the trial lasted only a few minutes. He paid his fine and went to Armstrong's tailoring shop for repairs. Peters and Judge Marvin used to discuss for hours the subject of astronomy.



They had, according to Welshans, completely covered the walls and floor of the room with diagrams of the heavens and the earth, drawn in chalk. Peters had taken the contrary side in the argument in order to draw the Judge out. The debate closed by the Judge calling Peters a blank fool. Peters was living in Springfield, Illinois, when Lincoln was nominated and he wrote to Alf Welshans a nice letter describing the jollification held at Lincoln's home.

"**Warner Vestal**, editor of the *Hendricks County Ledger*, requested Peters to read the proof of a long article he had written for that paper. Peters took the proof slips to his room and in about two hours he came back with the slips together with an exhaustive criticism on the article longer than the original. Vestal said, 'I can not make the corrections on your article in time to go to press.' Peters said, 'My article? I have written nothing that needs correcting.' 'You wrote the whole business,' said the editor. Peters had written the first article when intoxicated and did not remember it. He was at himself when he read the proof. The article was put on the dead galley rack, but the proof slips and the criticisms were kept as object lessons by the editor and printers for many a day. Peters met his fate in Libby prison near the close of the war.

"Thomas N. Jones was a many-sided character and a good citizen. He was fond of all kinds of innocent amusements and at almost every entertainment he was a star performer, always appearing in a comedy of blunders. Whether it was the mind-reading phrenologist or the gag of the circus clown or the mystifying ventriloquist or the simple twist of the wrist of the street fakir, Tom always took the cake as the victim of every trick and joke. During the years that the 'Sons of Temperance' wave swept over the country, that society held a temperance

celebration at Indianapolis. On the day of the grand parade, Tom was in command of the Hendricks county division. The weather was very hot, the people in the parade were very thirsty and a committee was supplying drinking water, which they carried in buckets. Tom's division had been served with a drink, but it did not satisfy Tom and he arose in his regalia and 'fuss and feathers' to the attitude of a magazine picture of 'Washington crossing the Delaware,' and yelled at the top of his voice, 'More water for the Danville delegation.' The grotesqueness of the commander's efforts to get drinks for the banner temperance delegation was too much for the spectators and they responded with laughter and applause. And Tom's words were passed along the line and were the toast of the day to which tin cups rattled and beer glasses clinked. To the day of Jones' death, he never heard the last of 'More water for the Danville delegation.'

"One day at a circus he assisted Richard Hemming, the celebrated rope-walker, in a tight rope act. Hemming carried Mr. Jones under the rope by straps looped to his feet. When the walker arrived over the dustiest spot in the ring he let Mr. Jones fall in the dirt to the infinite delight of the audience, who greeted him with the usual encore. To this day tight rope and Tom Jones are twin geraniums. The secret order known as the Sons of Malta did not have a lodge in Danville, but Jones never missed anything. He went to Indianapolis and joined and very nearly met his death during his initiation into the order. The practical jokers worked him up to a fever heat until he almost sweat blood, then let him fall from a great height into a tank of ice water. He admitted that this experience took the conceit out of him, but don't you believe it."

*The following is the obituary for Colonel Warner L. Vestal from The Hendricks County Ledger (now The Republican, Danville, Indiana)--issue of Thursday, September 22, 1910—page 1, columns 3-5. He was a former editor of The Hendricks County Ledger and was born in Hendricks County in 1839.*

## Brave soldier surrenders when life's plans seem to fail

Col. Warner Vestal was found dead in his office in San Bernardino, Cal., Thursday morning, his death being caused by inhaling illuminating gas. Financial difficulties prompted the act, which seems to have been deliberately planned and had been attempted two nights before. The San Bernardino Daily Sun says:

"Having kept lonely vigil through the long night watches, with only his disappointed hopes for company, as the day broke yesterday morning, Colonel W.L. Vestal laid himself down in the long sleep that knows no mortal waking. He sought surcease from business cares, from the unlucky star which his touching farewell letter to friends says has followed him all his days—such surcease as only the lethal slumber could make certain, and as the sun broke over the mountains and flooded the valley that he loved, he himself opened the doors and set the imprisoned spirit free."

He was seen about the office at five o'clock, and before six a news agent

who shared the same office, coming to his daily work, found the body still warm, a duster wrapped about the head and a tube from a gas jet in his mouth.

For two years he had had financial troubles and his enterprises had been disappointments and he saw no way for relief. His obligations amounted to some \$3,000.

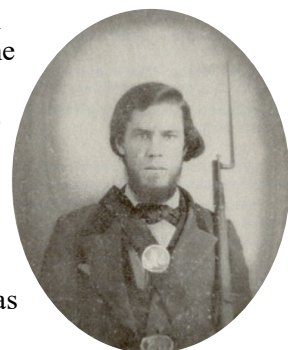
His wife was informed of his fate, and after the first shock, rallied to give directions as to the new sad duties. The funeral was Sunday from the Elks' hall and at the grave the G.A.R. paid their last honors.

Warner L. Vestal was a former editor of this paper, then known as the *Ledger*. He laid aside his work and enlisted in the first call for troops in the war for the Union. He was born in Guilford township, Nov. 28, 1839, and at the age of 17 he went to Iowa, and in a printing office in Indianaola he learned his trade. In the winter of 1859-60 he returned to Indiana, and, with his brother, purchased the *Ledger*, and continued in charge until he enlisted.

Mustered out in August, 1861, he enlisted in February, 1862, in the 53rd regiment as a private, being promoted until he became Colonel, and was mustered out as such in 1865.

At Atlanta he was badly wounded July 22, 1864. Though still a cripple, he returned to his regiment and joined his command at Hilton Head, and later participated in the grand review at Washington.

In November, 1865, he and Miss Frances Young, of Washington, were married, and in 1867 he moved to Des Moines and was employed on the *Register*. In 1870 he moved to Storm Lake and edited the *Pilot*, continuing in charge until 1885. He was assistant secretary of the Iowa senate for several terms, was postmaster and mayor of his



*Col. Warner Vestal*

city. He went to California in 1886, and continued in the newspaper business at several towns. He was identified with many public movements and was highly esteemed as a progressive citizen.

In Danville he is kindly remembered, and his comrades unite in expressions of grief. Here, as well as in San Bernardino, tears have been shed over his last pathetic note, which reads:

“Failure, trouble and disappointment have followed me all the days of my life, and under the present awful mental anguish, I must end this mortal existence. Skyland Heights this season has been an utter and dismal failure. I had high hopes that it would prove a financial success. I am utterly unable to pay even a small portion of the amounts due to those who have in kindness and good faith furnished me with materials, goods and even money, and the humiliation and disgrace that would follow the knowledge of my absolute insolvency is greater than I can bear. For this final act of my life I beg such forgiveness and mercy as your generous hearts may accord. It is awful, but I can see no relief except in that sleep that is said to have no awakening. The fearful days and sleepless nights have wrought havoc

and ruin to my brain and mind.

“Good-bye,  
“W.L. Vestal.”

When Colonel Vestal was terribly wounded at the battle of Atlanta, and was left for dead on the field, the news reached Danville that he was dead, and the Ledger announced the fact, printing a sketch of his life. Col. Vestal kept this clipping for 46 years and made it an annual custom to read his “obituary” to his friends on July 22, the anniversary of his “death.”

The Ledger printed the biographical sketch and said:

“It is with regret that words cannot express that we are called upon to record the death of this gallant and meritorious officer. The news of his death reached town in a letter written by Mr. J.N. Searce from Chattanooga to his wife. We have no particulars nor date further than he was wounded and died in two or three days.

“No officer or soldier that ever went from our county bore a better name as a brave or efficient officer, a tried and worthy soldier and a noble hearted and generous man. He wore the well deserved honors of his position with all becoming dignity and with as an unassuming a grace as he did those of the humble private. He was kind to his

men and was almost worshipped by them.

“But he has fallen in the very morn of his manhood, another victim of that cruel monster, slavery. He fell at his post, battling for the cause of humanity and freedom. Green will live his memory in the hearts of his countrymen.”

The San Bernardino Sun editorially says in its tribute:

“San Bernardino mourns its most public spirited citizen. Not that he had wealth to give or that monuments and memorials have arisen at his bidding, but had he been blest with wealth, it must have blessed many others, for unselfishness was his characteristic and his desire to make others happy his consuming passion. But for what he did and for what he was, the tear swims in many an eye at thought of his untimely taking off. He was a noble soul, a fearless spirit, rich in friendships and in friends, who would have counted it a pleasure to have been of service had he but signaled his distress, and who to-day mourn because they did not know.

“Speech cannot contain our love. There was, there is, no gentler, stronger, manlier man.”

The funeral was yesterday morning.

## About the Author...

**John Vestal Hadley** (c. 1839–1842 – November 17, 1915) was an American lawyer, politician, judge, historian, and writer who served in the Indiana Senate and as a justice of the Indiana Supreme Court from January 2, 1899 to January 2, 1911. He served in various positions throughout the Civil War and was twice taken as a prisoner of war.

John Hadley was born on a farm in Hendricks County, Indiana to a family of Quakers of Irish descent (specifically from County Meath) who moved to Plainfield, Indiana from Guilford County, North Carolina in 1822. His parents were Jonathan Hadley (who died in 1842) and Ara Hadley (née Carter, originally from Collinsville, Ohio).

Hadley attended a Quaker school in Plainfield. In 1859, he attended Butler University in Indianapolis, leaving after one year before to enlist in the Union Army following the outbreak of the Civil War. Hadley served in a non-combat capacity; as a Quaker, he was a conscientious objector due to his religion's doctrine of pacifism. After enlisting in Company B of the 7th Indiana Infantry Regiment, Hadley was sent to Camp Morton in Indianapolis for a short period of training and was appointed corporal. His regiment fought in West Virginia and Virginia.

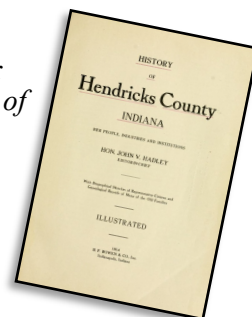
In 1862, he was promoted to sergeant before being



wounded at the Second Battle of Bull Run and was briefly taken as a prisoner of war by Confederate soldiers before being let free. In 1863, he was appointed lieutenant on the staff of Brigadier General James Clay Rice. During the Battle of the Wilderness, Hadley was once again wounded and taken as a prisoner of war. He was transferred to four Confederate POW camps before ending up in Camp Sorghum in Columbia, South Carolina. He would remain in the prison for seven months (an experience he would recount in his bestselling book, *Seven Months a Prisoner*) before escaping and walking across the Blue Ridge Mountains to Knoxville, Tennessee where he found a Union camp.

He was discharged in 1865. Returning to Hendricks County, Hadley married Mary Jane Hill, a woman he had been sending love letters to throughout the war. These letters were later published in 1963 in the *Indiana Magazine of History*.

In 1866, Hadley studied at the Law School of Indiana University in Bloomington. After being admitted to the bar, Hadley opened a private practice in Danville and had a



successful start to his career by providing legal services to the members of his large family (there were two hundred Hadleys in Hendricks County at the time). A Republican, Hadley served in the Indiana Senate from 1869 to 1873, representing Hendricks and Putnam counties. In 1884, he was floated as a candidate for a seat in Congress, but he declined to run. In 1886, he was elected judge of Indiana's 19th Circuit Court. He was re-elected to the position in 1894 and presided over the widely-publicized **Hinshaw murder trial** during this second term. His judicious and professional handling of a case that was monitored so closely by the press brought Hadley to the attention of the public, leading to his election to the Indiana Supreme Court.

Hadley became a justice of the Indiana Supreme Court in

1899, succeeding Justice James McCabe. He left the court in 1911 due to his failing health in old age. He was succeeded by Justice Charles E. Cox. In 1914, Hadley's book on the history of Hendricks County, *History of Hendricks County, Indiana: Her People, Industries, and Institutions*, was published.

As mentioned, Hadley married Mary Jane Hill after returning from war. They had three children; two sons and one daughter. Their son, Walter Gresham Hadley, served as an artillery captain in the American Expeditionary Force during the First World War.

Hadley died of the common cold at his home in Danville in 1915.

# Hinshaw Murder Trial

The most celebrated murder in the long history of Hendricks County occurred on the morning of January 10, 1895 in Belleville.

Early on that snowy morning, the Rev. William E. Hinshaw ran screaming from his small Methodist parsonage, awakening neighbors to report that two mysterious intruders had killed his wife Thurza and had wounded him as they slept in the bedroom of their home.

After a lengthy investigation, during which a "lady friend" of the handsome pastor was discovered, Rev. Hinshaw was arrested for the murder of his wife. The preacher, it was charged, had shot his wife as she slept, then wounded himself in an effort to conceal his "crime of passion".

In a dramatic trial at the old courthouse in Danville, presided over by Judge John V. Hadley - later a state Supreme Court justice - the preacher was defended by Enoch G. Hogate, who later was dean of the Indiana University Law School; James L. Clark, who later became Hendricks County circuit judge; James O. Parker of Danville and John Duncan and C.W. Smith, Indianapolis attorneys.

The prosecution staff - which created a sensation by reproducing the Hinshaw boudoir and the death bed in the courtroom and re-enacting the crime as they visioned it - included Cassius C. Hadley, later an Appellate Court judge; Thomas J. Cofer, later a Hendricks circuit judge, and Henry Spann, a famous Indianapolis trial lawyer.

The lengthy trial became a classic case, in which rulings on the admissibility of circumstantial evidence by Judge Hadley became landmark decisions which are still studied by law students.

At last, on the basis of circumstantial evidence, the jury found Rev. Hinshaw guilty, and he was sentenced to life imprisonment. The preacher spent 10 years in prison. Finally, Governor W.T. Durbin paroled Hinshaw. But the freed minister promptly became involved in a romance with the wife of a Central Indiana sheriff and - after being arrested with her in a hotel room - ended up in prison once again.

A few months later, Hinshaw was paroled by newly elected Governor James P. Goodrich, a lifelong friend, and this time he left Indiana, settling in Walla Walla, Washington, where he died in 1911.

[This was the first of many articles published in the "Fort Wayne News" (Fort Wayne, Indiana) on Monday, Sept. 2 1895.]

## ON TRIAL FOR HIS LIFE: ACCUSED OF WIFE MURDER: PROMISES TO BE A MOST SENSATIONAL CASE

Danville, Sept. 2. -- Wednesday morning, in the Hendricks circuit court, will be called for trial what promises to be the most sensational case ever tried in Hendricks county -- that of William E. Hinshaw, charges with the murder of his wife. The interest in the case, which was so manifest at the time of the tragedy, has been revived and is now the one absorbing topic of conversation.

Hinshaw is in the county jail resting as easy, apparently, as one could who is soon to be tried for his life. He has many faithful friends who have never faltered in their loyalty to him, and they are constantly visiting him in his cell. These friends believe him innocent and are positive of his acquittal. The family of Mrs. Hinshaw are friendly toward his case and think him an innocent man, with possibly the exception of the father, Mr. Oyler, and he refuses to talk upon the subject.

The attorneys for the defense are Enoch G. Hogate, James L. Clark and James A. Parker of this place and John S. Duncan of Indianapolis. The state's interests will be looked after by Otis E. Gulley, prosecuting attorney; Thomas J. Cofer and Cash C. Hadley of this place and Henry N. Spann of Indianapolis.

