

Hendricks County Museum News

February 2024

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.

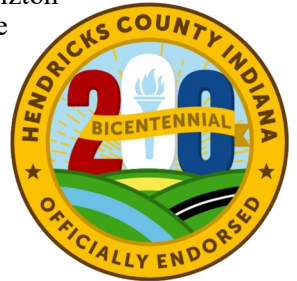
President's Message

Dear Friends of the Hendricks County Museum,

Here we are in 2024, the Bicentennial year for Hendricks County! The young Indiana legislature authorized the creation of our County, officially as of April 1, 1824. I don't think April 1st had the same connotation back then as today! The County has certainly changed from the handful of early settlers along Wa-Pe-Ke-Way, or White Lick Creek to one of the largest and fastest growing counties in the State. The Museum is taking part in the County Bicentennial Celebration through sponsoring several activities and working with the Steering Committee. To keep up with all, go to the website Hendricks200.com and sign up for the newsletter and take a look at the timeline and historic photos. Those who sign up for the Bicentennial newsletter on their website by Feb. 21 will be entered into a drawing for two tickets to the invitation-only kickoff event at Lizton Lodge on March 14. We have a fair amount of information on the Centennial and Sesquicentennial of the County, this is your chance to take part in the Bicentennial.

—Pat Baldwin, President, Friends of the Hendricks County Museum

Bicentennial activities set for 2024



There is a Steering Committee co-chaired by Pat Baldwin of the Hendricks County Museum and Eric Hessel from the Hendricks County Community Foundation which has been hard at work on coming up with ways to celebrate our County.

Some activities to watch for are the Museum's Family Day June 1, which will have items and activities our early pioneers would have been familiar with, some new exhibits and activities at the 4-H Fair and at Hendricks County RibFest.

We are hopeful there will be a legacy project of a tree walk of 50 Native trees in one of the County Parks.

The best way to check in on all of this is to go to the Bicentennial Website, Hendricks200.com. The Museum has contributed the County timeline, just be sure to check on the extended version! You can also upload your historic photos for consideration to be added to the website.

We are very pleased to be working on an update to the County History

publications, focusing on each township, post WWII to the present. These publications may be available later in the Fall. We realize that our history is not just what happened 200 years ago, but what happened in our more recent past, too.

If you would like to read more about our early history, the Museum and our local public libraries have several publications to peruse.



These are our dates for the coming year

- Annual meeting Thursday **March 21**, 6:30 PM at 98 West Broadway, Danville
- Opening Friday **March 22**, 11-3
- Annual Fundraiser, Dancing

with the Hendricks County Stars, **May 4**

- Family Pioneer Days Saturday **June 1**, 11-3
- Afternoon Tea **August 24**
- Tours can be set up during the week by contacting the Museum



SECRETS ON THE SHELF

FREE SCREENING!
Wed., March 13, 2024, 6 PM
(Doors open at 5:15 PM)

Presented at the Danville Royal Theater, located on the Danville Town Square

A documentary of the Hendricks County Museum by Cascade Middle School

Volunteers needed!



We are almost an entirely volunteer organization, and as such invite you or perhaps your friends or family to join us in many areas. Our greatest need is for people willing to give us a few hours once a year, once a month or once a week to be at the Museum to greet our visitors, which numbered around 1,000 in 2023!

We open in March and run through the beginning of December, Fridays and Saturdays, 11-3 (or you can take a shorter shift). Even coming in one time is a big help in keeping our doors open! Don't worry, you don't have to figure out anything on your own. Those who wish to lead tours can do so. We have notebooks which tell about each room, or you can simply be there to personally greet the guests.

Events that require some "extra" help are when school groups come in, on our very popular children and family day, the **first Saturday in June** from 11-3. It is not a day for regular tours, but for games, exhibits and stories aimed at children and is a lot of fun.

Our **Tea in August** allows for opportunities to decorate, set up displays at the Fairgrounds, and sign in our guests that afternoon.

The **Road Rally** needs anyone with a connection to any car clubs or road rally enthusiasts to spread the word, as well as someone to hand out maps and get those cars registered.

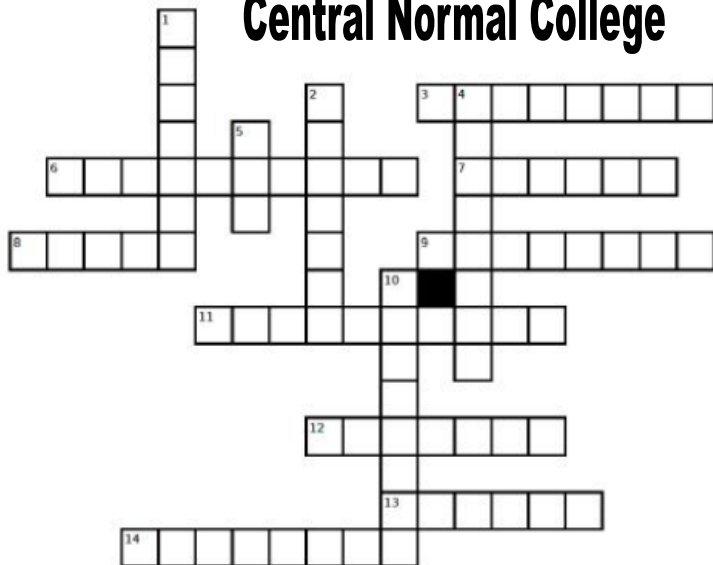
Scares on the Square, one evening done in conjunction with Danville, saw 300 mostly costumed characters in 2023 come in to see the jail cells and get candy. It will make you smile!

The number of visitors who stop in the Friday after Thanksgiving has grown each year, and we stop just before the lighting so it is not a late night, but will put you in the holiday spirit. We will not have a Candlelight Tour this year.

Other types of volunteer needs that are more intermittent are helping put up displays, hosting a table one Saturday at the Danville Farmer's Market, booths for Quaker Days or other events. This is not an all encompassing list.

Let us know if you are interested in anything here, or if you want more information. We will always give our volunteers support and be respectful of your time. The easiest way to get involved is to leave a message at 317-718- 6158, email us at museum@co.hendricks.in.us or talk to one of the Board members.

Central Normal College



Down:

1. Indiana Governor Samuel M. _____ was an 1884 graduate of CNC
2. The gymnasium was built with a lot of help from _____ labor.
4. The CNC gymnasium is now home to the Danville _____ Club.
5. When President Frank P. Adams died in 1882, his wife _____ Adams assumed the role per his wishes.
10. In 1878, Central Normal College moved to _____.

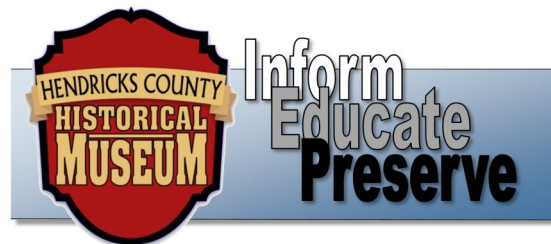
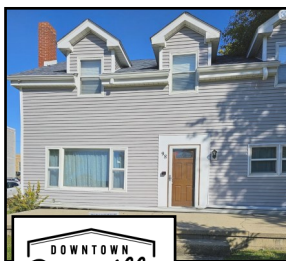
Across:

3. The CNC sports teams were known as the _____.
6. In 1946, Central Normal College was renamed _____ College.
7. The man who moved CNC to Danville was W.F. _____.
8. When CNC moved from Ladoga, the college's property was moved by _____ train.
9. Central Normal College was primarily a school to train _____.
11. The CNC yearbook was called the _____.
12. _____ Hall was built in 1915.
13. Central Normal College was first located in _____, Indiana.
14. A campus building that still exists in Danville is _____ Hall.

Answers on Page 4

Our new siding on the 98 W. Broadway house was funded by grants from the ARPA funds given to the county; Downtown Danville; and from generous donors like you! The old siding was not completely covering the wood corners, which was causing deterioration in that area, and also adds some insulation to the house.

We are glad to be looking so good now! We also added a new much more secure back door. For a little bit of history about this house and other Hendricks County dwellings, check us out on Facebook!



Board of Directors

- Pat Baldwin, President, Danville
- Marty Carter, Vice-President, Pittsboro
- Reann Poray, Secretary, Plainfield
- Gary Owens, Treasurer, North Salem
- Mark Belloni, Brownsburg
- Diane Coiro, Avon
- Donny Cook, Pittsboro
- Linda Cook, Pittsboro
- Gail Tharp, Danville
- Helen Corbitt, Danville, volunteer bookkeeper
- Newsletter Editor: Emily Hansen



We have just over 2,000 pictures scanned and on Indiana Memory from the Museum photo collection! Thank you to Melody Enz, Linda Cook, Laney Collier, Shawn Burcham, and Mark Belloni for this terrific endeavor of globally sending out pieces of HC history!



Meet Our 2024 DWHCS Dancers!

Top row: Jamis Wadsworth-Carr instructor; Alex Skudrovskis, instructor; Loren Delp, Hendricks County Prosecutor; Chad Waits, Hendricks Regional Health physician; Katie Toth, instructor; Amanda Fulwider, North Salem State Bank; Kyle Shelley, Hendricks Power Cooperative; Ali Orr, Bronzed by Ali.

Front row: Nancy Dell, American Senior Communities; Deborah Baah, Cumberland Trace; Stephanie Singh, Town of Plainfield; Ana Fernandez, instructor.

Not pictured: Levi Riggs, Music Artist; Harish Nair, IU Health



Plans for a museum took shape 50 years ago



Our Museum came to be, largely due to the efforts of a Hendricks County Historical Society, formed in 1967 in response to the enthusiasm generated by the celebration of Indiana's sesquicentennial. The society held well attended quarterly meetings at different locations

throughout the county and, in cooperation with the Danville library, began to collect records, clippings, and small items hoping to find a location for a museum.

In the spring of 1972, a \$1000 gift from member Murat Keeney started the Museum Fund. By that fall they had talked to the County Commissioners about having space in the soon

to be vacated jail and sheriff's residence.

In the fall of 1974, Commissioner Lowell Franklin announced that the commissioners had agreed to donate the living quarters of the building to the Historical Society for a museum. "That's where it's supposed to go," Commissioner Franklin said. At first only the residence was offered for a museum. The county welfare and juvenile department remained in the annex and there was a plan to make the jail area into offices.

(This is the first part in a series, detailing how the Hendricks County Museum came to be. Thank you Marty Carter, for submitting this!)

Know Your Towns: Stilesville, Indiana (Franklin Township)

In 1823, Jeremiah Stiles came to town and founded this quiet village along the National Road. The town was laid out in 1828, but not incorporated until 100 years later in 1928. Stilesville was a thriving, busy town with many merchants who catered to the agricultural community — which much of Franklin Township was.

Stilesville was typical for a small, rural village and was home to several churches, two fraternal organizations (the Masons and the Odd Fellows), a hotel, post office, social clubs (like the Friday Club and the Penelope Club), a hardware, and a livery. Throughout the years Stilesville has continued to maintain, with former businesses like Coopers O.K. Hardware and current businesses like Dollar General and Cornerstone Roadhouse.

Before consolidation, Stilesville High School served the area's secondary educational needs and the sports teams were known as the "Stilesville Tigers". The town still has an active cemetery, fire department, and town hall (housed in the renovated former school gymnasium).

One historical story that is well-known about Stilesville is the Wagon Train Tragedy. In 1849, a group of people traveling in Conestoga wagons from Ohio to California, stopped near Stilesville. They bought new corn from local residents and cooked it for the evening meal. The next morning, they ate the remainder of the corn, which had been left in the kettle overnight. The result of that morning meal was that several travelers became ill. Within a few hours, nineteen had died of food poisoning and were buried in the west section of the Stilesville cemetery. Local historian Ruth Pritchard concluded, "The unidentified travelers rest in unmarked graves in one of Hendricks County's oldest cemeteries."



* Designed by TownMapsUSA.com

Society in the 1900s: Join a Club!

Excerpt from *History of Hendricks County Indiana, Her People, Industries and Institutions*, by the Hon. John V. Hadley, 1914.

In harmony with the cultured life of Danville, there are several social clubs, which, in themselves, form an important part of the town. Charity, high moral standards, patriotism, civic honor, education, purity of life, honorable ambition, are sentiments that mark the right growth of a city and these sentiments have been promoted by the noble women of Danville, individually and in club life and organized concert of action. All these clubs do their part to lighten burdens, to broaden education, and to promote the graces of true culture.

The *Social Dozen* is a club with a membership limited to 14. It is an embroidery club and its object is to do variegated needlework, besides the social side.

The *Afternoon Circle* was organized February 8, 1907, and its object is to acquire excellence in embroidery work.

The *Bay View Study Club* was organized in Danville in February, 1912, with 16 charter members. Its membership is limited. The object of the club is to

take up current and literary topics for discussion, as well as travel subjects.

The *Embroidery Club* was organized in 1898 by Mrs. James McCoun and Mrs. John W. Trotter. It was originally called the Who, When and What Club. The name signifies the character of the club.

The *Browning Club* was organized on September 12, 1891, with a membership limited to 25. The object of the club is that the members get better knowledge of the poet, Browning, and consequent mental and moral development. The poetic study is not entirely confined to Robert Browning.

The *Philomathean Club* is a literary organization which started October 13, 1909.

The *Cozy Club* was organized about 1900 for the purpose of improvement in the use of the needle.

The *J.O. Club* has for its purpose social development and mutual instruction in the art of domestic science.

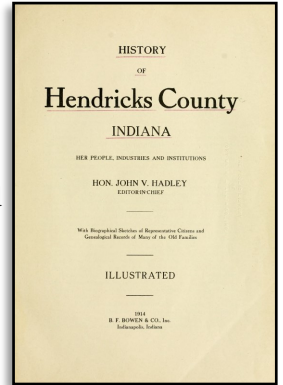
The *Charity Coterie* was organized in December, 1908 and the motto, "Do Something for Somebody" adopted. The field of work for this club is a large one, including charitable work of every kind

and care for the town, attention to social life and various pursuits.

The *Up-to-Date Club* was organized in October, 1898, and was to be made up of the young married women of the town, whose object was to keep in accord with the history of current events, the improvement and pleasure of themselves and their homes. Domestic science is studied, also literature and kindred subjects.

The *Modern Priscilla Club* devotes its energies to the study of literature and the art of embroidery.

The *Half Century Club*, to which none are eligible except those over 50 years of age, has for its object sociability.



The Museum was awarded an Indiana Historical Society Heritage Support Grant in the amount of \$4,344.00 to purchase archival supplies to improve storage and displays of our extensive amount of uniforms and clothing, and quilts which we want to store correctly to protect these items for years to come.

Thank you
Indiana
Historical
Society!



We want to keep garments like the warm cape and velvet coats well protected while they are stored away for future display!



Check out *The Republican*, Hendricks County's oldest newspaper which regularly runs features on County history. They are always informative and sometimes quite amusing. Our plan is to submit a local history themed crossword to be published once a month.



Follow, like, and share the Hendricks County Museum on FB and Instagram. We post what we think are interesting photos and stories, on about a weekly basis.



Do you shop at Kroger's? Sign up with them in your digital account and designate the Museum as the organization you would like to support. Each time a portion will be donated to the Hendricks County Museum!

Central Normal College Crossword Puzzle Answers

Down: 1. Ralston; 2. Student; 4. Athletic; 5. Ora; 10. Danville

Across: 3. Warriors; 6. Canterbury; 7. Harper; 8. Wagon; 9. Teachers; 11. Centralian; 12. Science; 13. Ladoga; 14. Hargrave