

Hendricks County Museum News


May 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

Sitting looking at some tulips and happy that my peony bush is blooming this year! Our flower beds in front of the Museum are looking great, too, thanks to the hard work of our volunteer who nurtures our garden (and she avoids the spotlight). I saw several groups taking Prom pictures there this weekend which was an event not even in existence when the Sheriff's residence was built in 1866. I wonder what Sheriff Calvert and his wife would have thought of that, including the colorful prom fashions worn by students. While styles, buildings, amenities and expectations change and evolve over time, it is nice to learn about and contemplate life in the past and especially interesting when the past and present intersect in happy events.

— Pat Baldwin



The Bicentennial Celebration for Hendricks County is well underway. Check out the website Hendricks200.com for information on upcoming events and check out the gallery of photos. You can also upload your own pictures for consideration for inclusion.

Upcoming Museum Events



- Danville Farmer's Market Saturday **May 25**. Stop by our table and say hi. We would love to have some company that morning, anytime between 8 and noon.
- Settlers Day Saturday **June 1**
- Lend to Scan Day **August 17**
- Afternoon Tea **August 24**
- Road Rally **October 6**
- Tours can be set up during the week by contacting the Museum

Five real reasons why people love to visit museums

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There are many reasons why people visit museums. Some want to learn about the past, while others are curious about the country they are visiting or want to enjoy art and culture. Museums are great for meeting new people, learning how our ancestors lived and expanding our minds.

There are different types of museums out there. Each offers an opportunity to learn more about our past and the world. No matter how you feel about them, you might have wondered why go to museums anyway. Here are my reasons why museums are important.

5 reasons why it's important to visit museums

Early museums were not as accessible to everyone as they are today. They were reserved for the wealthy and educated elites. Once museums became accessible to everyone, they offered more people a chance to learn and see what's inside. People visit museums for different reasons. For some, they are wonderful places filled with wonder and mystery. To others, they are just boring storage places for old crap and are not worth a visit. Here are some of my reasons for exploring museums.

(Continued on Page 3)

"If Centennial day can give us cause to stop and think, can help in slowing up the mad rush of this life, can add to our sense of the proper proportions of things, it will indeed be worthwhile. So, people of Hendricks county, Centennial day is yours. One hundred years from now, another people will celebrate the second Centennial. They will have their burdens and their responsibilities, many of them such as we today know not of. None of us will be there then, but the record of the first Centennial will then be read. Let us all assist in making it a worthy story"

The Republican, May 8, 1924



Settlers Day at the Museum will be fun for everyone, with displays and demonstrations focusing on the life of the early settlers in Hendricks County.

It is Saturday June 1, from 11-3 in the Museum and weather permitting on the lawn.

Try out the butter churn, learn about candlemaking, cooking on a fire, spinning wool and more. Children can play some fun "no screens" games and activities.

There is no cost for this.



Dancing with the Hendricks County Stars was a big success again on May 4 with 534 guests and many sponsors, grossing over \$100,000. Guests enjoyed a fun Silent Auction, dinner catered by The Coachman, and a display of beautiful desserts which each table bid on for the final taste before the dancers' competition.

WINNERS: Best Dancer: Harish Nair of IU Health West. Harish had several tables of co-workers, friends, and family some of whom were from London, England and India - making this the (as far as we know) first one with international guests.

Top Fundraiser and People's Choice: Chad Waits of Hendricks Regional Health.



Pictured, l-r: Board member Mark Belloni, DWHCS Event Chair Robin Pickett, Gail, and Board member Gary Owen.

Museum board member Gail Tharp was surprised at hearing her name announced as the person who thought of Dancing with the Hendricks County Stars, which started in 2015. She was escorted onstage by fellow board members Gary Owen and Mark Belloni, with her daughter and son-in-law looking on from her table.

Later, Gail was heard to say, "I never thought I would be "speechless" but you all got me. The idea came from Putnam County as they were doing DWS as a fundraiser. I called a friend who agreed to have lunch with Deanna, Sally, myself and I can't remember who else. She gave us all her notes and we were off. Putnam County has long stopped doing this event. You all took an idea and ran with it. Great job to all of you! Love to all of you. (Oh wait! I have another idea!") Not fundraising"



Harish Nair, left, and Chad Waits, right.
Photo courtesy of The Republican

A Nostalgic Look at 'Dancing with the Hendricks County Stars'

(Excerpts of this article was written by Jessica Nunemaker, owner of LittleIndiana.com, on April 6, 2015. We thought you might reading and reminiscing!)

On April 9, 2015, twelve Hendricks County residents will compete to win – raising awareness and generating funding for the Hendricks County Historical Museum.

Dancing with the Hendricks County Stars

It's no secret that our museums could use a couple extra bucks. Did you realize that you could instead help boost your local area with a donation to your town or county museum? Your donations would greatly enhance program offerings and future displays. A good town or county museum has a ripple effect, enhancing the area like you wouldn't believe!

Mimicking the popular Dancing with the Stars TV show, the Hendricks County Historical Museum has managed to get six staff members from area high schools involved in addition to other key community members.

These local folks include:

- Avon High School: Matt Schockley, Principal
- Cascade: Jon Acton, Principal
- Danville: Mike Nielsen, Government teacher
- Plainfield: Brett Schwanekamp, Assistant Principal
- Tri-West: Chuck Jones, Sheriff's Dept. DARE Officer
- Brownsburg: Bret Daghe, Principal

Other folks planning on salsa and tangoing their way to victory include:

- Jay Puckett, Hendricks County Council President
- Kathy Linton, Hendricks County Flyer Editor
- Harold Allen, Hendricks County Flyer Publisher
- Suzanne Whicker, retired Executive Director of Leadership Hendricks County
- Deanna Hindsley, Museum Board President
- Dr. Charles Tripple

Who should emcee but the Hendricks County Superior Court Judge Rhett Stuard!

An Evening to Remember

They aren't going into this blindly! Dance lessons will be provided by Arthur Murray Dance Studios in addition to partners for the performance. Also supplying the judges, these newbie dancers will toe the line, trying not only to win a trophy for best dance performance but also to be the one to raise the most money for the museum!

Dancing with the Hendricks County Stars has to be one of the neatest ways I have seen yet to get the community involved. Gee, it makes me wish I lived in Hendricks County! It sounds like a great time for everyone involved!

As Museum Board President, Deanna Hindsley said, "This promises to be the biggest event ever presented by the Hendricks County Historical Museum and we hope to raise enough funds to allow us to improve displays and also to be open more hours! We are looking forward to a great crowd!"

Join us next year and
Celebrate **10 years** of
Dancing with the
Hendricks County Stars!

May 3, 2025!

dancing
with the hendricks county stars

Thank You to Our DWHCS Title Sponsors



Jean Anne Funk, 1/25/52 - 3/7/24

A memorial service was held for Jean Anne Funk on April 21, 2024, on the lawn of the Museum. Jean was the youngest daughter of Merle and Ruth Funk. Merle was Hendricks County Sheriff from 1962-1970.

Quite a few of the 25 attendees came into the museum afterwards to tour the residence and jail and shared several stories of Jean while she lived at the residence.

- One story was that Jean held a surprise 16th birthday party in the Women’s side of the jail for her friend Cheryl (married name Wills). Ginny (Ellison-married name) was also a friend. They both told of coming over and going up to the roof to sit and read magazines with Jean.
- They and Rex Leach told of the fence around the jail section where 1 (or 2) large German Shepherds lived, they think they were there to discourage anyone from trying to escape.
- Ruth Funk’s mother stayed with them, in the Parlor set up as a bedroom, for a short period of time.
- Merle would go on outings to get donuts at Sapps in Columbus, Indiana to give the prisoners at breakfast.
- Ruth would go along with Merle if there was a woman involved in an arrest or if one had to be put in the jail she took care of that.



Five real reasons... *(Continued from Page 1)*

1. **Museums teach us about the past.** In a museum, we can learn how things were done, what life looked like and even what people wore and did in the past. It is living history from times gone by that helps us understand ourselves
2. **Museums make us smarter.** When we visit museums, we gain new knowledge. Many museums even partner with schools to enhance education, while others host hands-on workshops for people of all ages.
3. **Museums are great for research.** Academics, researchers and regular folks often come to museums to study. Examining old artifacts is a great way to collect information. For example, old pottery is not just showing us how others consumed food. The techniques and materials used to make it tell us more about how we progressed and evolved in addition to what people ate.
4. **Museums inspire.** They are great for stimulating new ideas, recharging and providing new perspectives. When you visit museums, you have access to the works of great masters, inventions and objects that changed our lives.
5. **Museums are a testament to the perseverance of humanity.** The first known museum opened in the 3rd century BC at the university of Alexandria in Egypt. Museums document history and show us that people have needed to collect and preserve things for a long time.

Museums also house historically significant items that have influenced what we know of the past. Take the Rosetta Stone at the British Museum (London), the Mona Lisa at the Louvre (Paris) or the world’s oldest soccer ball at the Smith Museum (Scotland). Each has a different story yet provides us with a vast knowledge of how people did things in the past and how that has changed over time.

Another great benefit of visiting museums is finding things from places and cultures that no longer exist. Take the handmade prehistoric tools used by our predecessors, ancient texts that talk of items lost and forgotten or the mosaics of civilizations that once thrived then were lost over time.

Why visit museums?

Most people first visit museums as kids, usually on a school trip or with parents. These experiences likely shape how they feel about museums later on. Even if you haven’t visited one as a child, you’re likely to visit a museum at some point in your life. You’ll either love it or hate it. One isn’t better than the other, so don’t feel bad if you don’t enjoy it. But if you go in open-minded, it will make the experience more enjoyable.

With such a variety of museums, there is likely something that will appeal to everyone. If you’re like me and love to visit museums, I don’t have to tell you why you should see one. You’ve probably been to many and have a list of your favorite ones. I’d love to compare those lists! We all have different interests, which makes museums fun and exciting for everyone.

The Museum wishes to thank Diane Coiro for her service on the Museum Board of Directors, and welcomes Emily Hansen, to fill the vacancy.

Thank you Diane, and Welcome Emily!



Board of Directors

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

Hendricks County Historical Museum opened its doors in 1975



The year 1974 was a busy one for the former Hendricks County Historical Society. Not only was it the year they learned they would finally have a building for a museum, it was also Hendricks County's 150th birthday.

The Historical Society played a leading role in the Sesquicentennial celebration, while also looking toward the publishing of a new county history book. In 1976 Hendricks County residents once again got excited about history as our country celebrated its bicentennial and the new county history went to the publisher.

Scott Hosier, general chair of the sesquicentennial committee, announced that about \$10,000 left from the sesquicentennial fund, plus profits from the 1976 history books soon to go on sale, would go to the Historical Society

for the museum. The Commissioners had declared the building to be in good condition except for the old slate roof, which was replaced with a shingle roof.

By early January of 1975 representatives of the museum had met with the commissioners and had an agreement ready for the approval of the Historical Society. By April a museum board was in place with Mrs. Rita Lieske as president, committees had been appointed for ways and means, acquisition, publicity, curatorial, maintenance, clerical, docent, and by-laws, and a call had gone out for donations of furniture and other items from the middle 1800's to the early 1900's. In December of 1975 they held Christmas at the Museum with two rooms open and ready to show off. *(This is the second part in a series, detailing how the Hendricks County Museum came to be. Thank you Marty Carter, for submitting this!)*

Know Your Towns: Rising Hall, Indiana (Franklin Township)

(Editor's Note: Though technically not a "town" of Hendricks County, this amazing structure merits your attention! You can read more about its history online by Jim Grey. (<https://blog.jimgrey.net/2021/11/08/rising-hall-a-true-gem-on-the-national-road-in-indiana/>)

Standing majestically on the southside of US 40, just west of Stilesville, is the Italianate home known as "Rising Hall". The home was built between 1862-1870 by Melville McHaffie. McHaffie was an equine enthusiast, and built a horse farm to facilitate his passion of horse racing. The home was bought by the Arnold family in the early 1900s and remained in that family until Walt and June Prosser purchased it in 1982. The house was in neglected condition at that time and the Prosser's completely restored it and got it listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The house is still in the Prosser family today.

Fun Facts: the legendary horse Dan Patch (1896-1916) was stabled at the horse farm for four years. More un facts: he was an American Standardbred harness racing horse, a "pacer". He won millions and dominated the sport. In the song "Trouble" from "The Music Man" one of the troubles would be seeing "some stuck-up jockey boy sitting on Dan Patch" Oh yes, we got trouble!



Is there really a tunnel that leads from the jail to the courthouse?

There is a tunnel, though it goes from the heating plant, which is the building directly behind and to the north of the museum. The courthouse and sheriff's house used the same heating system and that's why there was a tunnel.

The real question is whether or not they also used it to transport prisoners to court. There are stories that they did, though none absolutely proven. People who have been in the tunnel doubt it. The entrance is not tall enough to stand up straight inside.

...Now You Know

Want to get out of the house once in a while and interact with others and it doesn't involve shopping? Consider volunteering for 2-4 hours on a Friday or Saturday as a Museum guide. We have handbooks with the information you need, and we do not require a long term commitment, and you never work alone.

We meet the nicest people who come in to tour our Museum, and our volunteers are the most interesting people around!



Cascade Middle School Hosts Civil War night May 28

Nine years ago the 8th grade students in the PACE class at Cascade Middle School created the [CMS Civil War Digital Archive](#) as part of a school project. The purpose of this archive was to preserve Civil War letters by digitizing them and making them available to the public.

The class was able to purchase actual Civil War letters through the generous donations of individuals in the community, and through grants from the Danville Rotary Club and the Jack Eggers Memorial Fund. In 2016, the CMS Civil War Archive was awarded the honor of being designated an Indiana Bicentennial Legacy Project. Our archive now contains 30 Civil War letters and we are looking to continue to grow this

number in the years to come.

The students, with the help of Hendricks County Museum Board members and volunteers transcribed, digitized, preserved, and researched these letters. The students then took the images, scans, transcriptions, and information they learned and made it accessible to the world through their class website. The goal was to show students that even though they are young they can do the work of an actual historian. Instead of simply reading about history, the students have been making it!

On Tuesday, May 28th at 5:15 pm the students will be hosting a Civil War night to showcase the work they have been doing this past school year. The students will be

displaying the webpages and poster boards they have created to highlight their soldier's life.

When: Tuesday, May 28th at 5:15 pm

Where: Cascade Middle School Learning Hub

What: Presentation of the archive

Website: <https://sites.google.com/mccsc.k12.in.us/cms-civil-war-archive/home>



Lend-to-Scan Day ♦ August 17, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm Hendricks County Museum

The Lend-to-Scan Day is vital to preserving access to the rich materials in our county. Drop off your historic photographs on the day of the event. Allow 1-2 weeks for our team to scan the items to be added to our digital collections. You will be contacted when your photos are ready for pick up.

For this event, organizers are seeking historic Hendricks County photographs that fit the themes **Town, Architecture, Schools, or Business**. Please limit the number of photos to 25. Lend us your

25 photographs by dropping them off at the Hendricks County Museum, August 17th between 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. At a later date, the Museum will provide required documents to collect your contact information and data that scanners will use to identify your photographs.

Only photographs no larger than 11 inches by 17 inches will be digitized at this event. If items brought to the August 17th event cannot be scanned at that time for any reason, or if participants have additional items of interest in other categories, participants will receive information on how to schedule a follow-up appointment for assistance or other recommendation after this event.

In addition to having photographs digitized and added to local museum digital archives, many of our county photographs are added to the Indiana Memory Collection online for viewing <https://digital.library.in.gov/>

Anyone can participate, but if you are not a member of the Hendricks County Museum, you will want to join! The Hendricks County Museum will choose a member's collection to feature on our Hendricks County Museum Collection Website! <https://hendrickscountymuseum.pastperfectonline.com/>

We have several options for membership and fun for everyone!

To join, visit our website at: [https://](https://hendrickscountymuseum.org/join-the-museum/)

hendrickscountymuseum.org/join-the-museum/

Or contact us at 317-718-6158

hcmuseum@co.hendricks.in.us

Members of the public who have questions about this event may contact the Hendricks County Museum at 317-718-6158.

More information about how to identify your items and prepare them for drop off will be added soon. Check back or check the Hendricks County Museum Website for future "Event" details.

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



We have 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!



Follow us on Facebook! We post once or twice a week, including our very popular then and now pictures. We have videos posted on Instagram, too.



'The Awakening' Trilogy

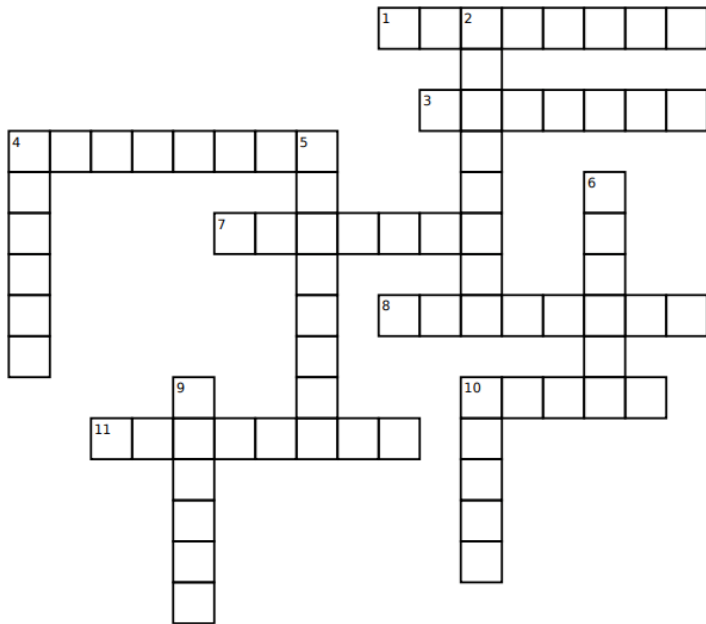
by Conrad Richter (1890-1968)

This fiction series was written about life on the American frontier, namely, life in the Ohio Valley. We highly recommend reading these, in order, to fully grasp what our settlers went through. If you are looking for the romance of that era, you won't find that. Nonetheless you will be captivated and end up having a better appreciation of what our settlers went through to survive.



*Grandmother, on a winter's day, milked the cows and fed them hay,
Slopped the hogs, saddled the mule, and got the children off to school,
Did a washing, mopped the floors, washed the windows, did some chores,
Cooked a dish of home-made fruit, and pressed her husband's Sunday
suit,
Swept the parlor, made the beds, and baked a dozen loaves of bread,
Split some firewood and lugged in enough to fill the kitchen bin,
Cleaned the lamps and put in oil, stewed some apples she thought might
spoil,
Churned the butter, baked a cake, then exclaimed, "For goodness sake!
The calves have got out of their pen!", went out and chased them in again.
Gathered the eggs and locked the stable, then back to the house to set the
table.
Cooked a supper that was delicious and afterward washed all the dishes.
Fed the cat and sprinkled the clothes, mended a basketful of hose.
Then opened the organ and began to play "When You Come to the End of
a Perfect Day".*

Around Hendricks County



Down:

2. Sam _____ was a Hendricks County native who was posthumously inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1974.
4. The County Sheriff's residence and jail that opened in 1866 is now the Hendricks County Historical _____.
5. In the early 20th century, Andrew _____ helped fund the building of libraries in Brownsburg, Danville, Coatesville, and Plainfield.
6. The number of townships in Hendricks County.
9. This NASCAR champion graduated from Tri-West High School in Lizton.
10. The _____ Theater in Danville has been showing films since 1914.

Across:

1. US 40 was first known as the _____ Road.
3. In 1948, a _____ tore through the county, causing severe damage.
4. In 1895, the Cartersburg _____ Springs resort opened.
7. One of the first pioneers in soybeans was Adrian _____ who began growing the crop near Avon in the 1890s.
8. In 1824, _____ was named the county seat.
10. James Beck had a bakery in Danville that was frequented by Hoosier Poet, James Whitcomb _____.
11. Portions of this basketball-themed movie were filmed in Hendricks County.

Answers:

Down: 2) Thompson; 4) Museum; 5) Carnegie; 6) Twelve; 9) Gordon; 10) Royal

Across: 1) National; 3) Tornado; 4) Magnetic; 7) Parsons; 8) Danville; 10) Riley; 11) Hoosiers

VOLUNTEER VOLUNTEER

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.