



Hendricks County Museum News

August 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

It's a beautiful summer day, and the Museum is in the midst of what is a season of visitors coming to see us from near and far. We never know if we will have two or 20 people in, but they always leave with a smile and a "thank you". Sharing with the guests and other volunteers leaves me energized and happy!

If you are interested we have all the information you need to lead a tour and we will provide training; we do not require a minimum amount of volunteer time. If you are someone that prefers a one time commitment, we have that too with our Tea, the Road Rally, and Scares on the Square coming up. Call and leave a message at 317-718-6158 and we will get with you and answer all of your questions. High school students looking for volunteer hours may be able to serve as well. Keep enjoying these longer days of sunlight!

—Pat Baldwin

Bicentennial Event News:

Our Settlers Day was a success back on June 1. We noticed that we had a number of young adults come through for a tour, along with the children and their families. Trying to write in cursive with a quill pen was a favorite activity, and our guests that day took their time going through all our rooms and exhibits.

Lend to Scan Day is coming up, and it has caused a lot of comments and questions on our Facebook page. See the article on it in this newsletter for more information. Besides our collection, anyone can upload pictures to the Bicentennial website at Hendricks200.com. Be sure to check it out, and sign up for the free newsletter which highlights all the many events and projects around the County.

The 2024 Hendricks County 4 H Fair

had a Bicentennial Theme, with many creative exhibits celebrating the County's birthday. Cupcakes were distributed following a rendition of 'Happy Birthday' on Sunday, July 14th.



Upcoming Museum Events



- Lend to Scan Day **August 17**
- Afternoon Tea **August 24**
- Road Rally **October 5** "On the Trail of our Pioneers"
- Scares on the Square Display, **Oct. 26** — *seeking ideas for the display!!*
- Christmas Time at the Museum, **Nov. 29-Dec. 14**
- Tours can be set up during the week! Contact the Museum.

Afternoon Tea scheduled for August 24th

Some of us will remember a time when a lady was not well dressed without a hat. In fact, hats were once important items of clothing for everyone, men, women, and children. Today the most common style might be the baseball cap! Hats are one of those things that have been around for centuries, changing styles through the years, and sometimes reminding us of "the way we were".

Guests are encouraged to wear their favorite hats!

The museum has an impressive hat collection thanks to generous donors through the years, plus we have hats on loan by a generous friend of the museum. We hope you will join us at the Hendricks County fairgrounds on August 24 for our annual Tea as we salute the 200 years of Hendricks County with "Hats Off to History." Refreshments are provided by the Courthouse Grounds of Danville.

Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased by contacting the Museum at (317) 718-6158 or emailing hcmuseum@co.hendricks.in.us. Tickets will be paid for at the door.



Congratulations and Good Luck, Audrey!

Nine-year-old Audrey Eaton came through the museum on a tour asking, "How old do you have to be to volunteer here?" The volunteer she spoke with said "I will take you now!" Her interest and questions were impressive at her young age.



Through the years her favorite activity was decorating the large doll house for Christmas. Audrey is an example of no matter your age there is a place for you.

"I have volunteered at the Hendricks County Historical Museum once or twice a month as a docent since I was nine years old," Audrey said. "I lead tours around the museum giving information and showing off new displays. I get the joy of people learning about the world before our time and the people I teach get a free experience of history and culture."

Audrey is planning on attending Ball State University to study psychology with a neuroscience minor. She plans to become a neuropsychologist.

Think about it: Audrey is probably our longest-running volunteer, having devoted half of her life helping to "Inform, Educate, and Preserve". Can anyone else match her record?

Thank you Audrey! Blessings to you as you head to college!

Top left: First time volunteer! Bottom left: An 'old pro'! Right: Today, and on her way!

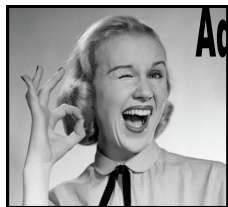
Loan us your pictures of days gone by!

The museum is looking to grow its digital photograph collection and we are asking residents of Hendricks County to help us!

On August 17th between 11:00 am to 3:00 pm, drop off up to 25 historic photographs at the museum. We'll scan them, return them to you, and collect any identifying information you have about the photographs.

Start digging through your attics, closets, and old shoeboxes! The museum is seeking historic Hendricks County photographs that fit the themes of Towns, Architecture, Schools, or Business. At this time, the museum is only able to accept and digitize photographs no larger than 11 inches by 17 inches. Please allow 1-2 weeks for us to scan them.

Anyone can participate in the Lend-to-Scan Day, but if you are not a member of the Hendricks County Museum, you will want to join! After all photographs are digitized, the museum will choose one member's collection to feature on our website.



Advice from a Singer Sewing Machine Manual from 1949

Prepare yourself mentally for sewing. Think about what you are going to do. Never approach sewing with a sigh or lackadaisically. Good results are difficult when indifference dominates. Never try to sew with a sink full of dirty dishes or beds unmade.

When there are urgent housekeeping chores, do these first so that your mind is free to enjoy your sewing. When you sew, make yourself as attractive as possible. Put on a clean dress. Keep a little bag of French chalk near your sewing machine to dust your fingers at intervals. Have your hair in order, powder and lipstick put on. If you are constantly fearful that a visitor might drop in or your husband will come home, and you will not look neatly put together, you will not enjoy your sewing.

Laughter is a serious thing. Hoot if you must, but strict attention should be paid to how you laugh and when. It is the barometer of your emotional state.
{By Susan Bennett Holmes — Woman's Day (August 1955)}



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

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

McClung family pays a visit to the Museum

On July 19, a display at the museum received some very special visitors. The display is a U.S. Army uniform that belonged to Sergeant Laurel McClung (1932-1986.) Sergeant McClung was a lifelong Hendricks County resident and attended Pittsboro High School, graduating in 1951. He served in the U.S. Army in the Korean War, receiving the Korean Service Ribbon, the National Defense Service Medal, and the United Nations Service Medal. He attended Engineer School (Far East Command) for Combat Construction Specialist and his most significant duty assignment was in Hq & Hq Co. 19th Engineer Group.

The special visitors were Sergeant McClung's son, Joe McClung, Joe's daughter, Ariana Laurel, and grandson, Lincoln Joseph. The museum is grateful that the McClung family donated some of Sergeant McClung's artifacts and we are so pleased that they visited. We love when the past meets the present! To see more of the Laurel McClung collection, click [here](#).



(left) Sgt. Laurel McClung.
(top) Sergeant McClung's son, Joe McClung, Joe's daughter, Ariana Laurel, and grandson, Lincoln Joseph

All About North Salem And Eel River Township

Down

1. The first _____ in Eel River Township was built by John P. Benson in 1826
3. North Salem observed a _____ celebration in 1935 (the town was 100 years old)
4. North Salem Antiques and Sundries had an old-fashioned _____ fountain where one could get a root beer float
5. In June, North Salem hosts a _____ festival
9. The North Salem _____ was established July 5, 1839 and mail was carried on horseback once a week from Stilesville.
10. North Salem State _____ celebrated 100 years in 2023
14. North Salem's Old Fashion days boasts the county's largest _____
15. North Salem used to be home to the _____ Steakhouse and Saloon
16. In the 1870s, John Harlow kept a _____ in his home, offering books to anyone in the township

Across

2. The first county park to be established was _____ Nature Park
5. The first _____ in the township was taught by William Dewitt, said to have fled from New Orleans after committing a crime and sailing around the world on a pirate vessel before settling in the area
6. The first _____ in North Salem was the North Salem Reporter
7. In 1899, the North Salem _____ system was built, making communications much easier
8. The first secret order in North Salem was the _____ Lodge, organized in 1853
11. In 1901, John Campbell was the first person to have an _____ in the Township (it was an Oldsmobile)
12. The town of North Salem was platted by David and John _____ and John Woodward on December 10, 1835
13. Indiana _____ Rescue in North Salem is the only known organization in the country that can rescue/rehab both domestic and wild forms of this animal
14. A destination Italian eatery in North Salem is _____ Pizzeria
17. The earliest known _____ in North Salem began practice as early as 1851
18. For North Salem's Centennial celebration, a 420 pound _____ was cut into slices and shared
19. In 1903, a _____ in North Salem destroyed five businesses, a home, and three barns

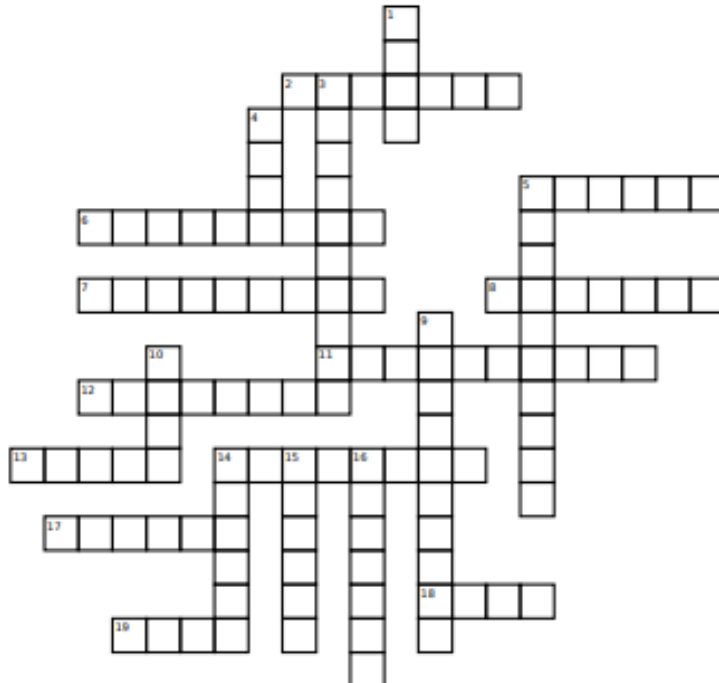
Answers:

Down:

1. mill
3. centennial
4. soda
5. strawberry
9. post office
10. bank
14. parade
15. red dog
16. library

Across:

2. mccloud
5. school
6. newspaper
7. telephone
8. masonic
11. automobile
12. claypool
13. skunk
14. perillos
17. doctor
18. cake
19. fire



10th Annual Car Rally

Saturday

Oct. 5

9 AM

"On the Trail of Our Pioneers"



Stay tuned for more information!!



Inform

Educate

Preserve

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

Historical Museum has grand opening!



(This is the third of a series telling the Museum's story of how it came to be! Thank you Marty Carter, for providing this wonderful information!)

After that first Christmas open house in 1975, much of the next two years was spent preparing the sheriff's residence to be a museum. Obviously through the years from 1866 until 1974 updates had been done to make the house a comfortable home for the sheriff's families. Now redecorating was to be done and furnishings found to return the house to the style of the late 1800's and early 20th century.

By November 20, 1977, the new roof was finished, painting and papering was done, and the Grand Opening of the Hendricks County Historical Museum was held. Arthur Himsel, president of the county commissioners, cut the ribbon,

past Historical Society president Sherman Crayton spoke, and museum board chair Dorothy Kelly welcomed guests.

In Mr. Crayton's address he asked the question, "What is the purpose of a museum?". It was not, he suggested, just to preserve an old building or to save old things, but to preserve the values they represent, to understand and appreciate the lives and values of those who came before us, and to remind us to be grateful.

Know Your Towns:

Coatesville, Indiana (Clay Township):



Platted in the late 1860s (original plat documents are missing), the town incorporated in 1909. The town benefitted from the railroad, which came right through downtown Coatesville. The businesses included a two-story hotel, livery stable, blacksmith, dry goods, and a pool room. (Not sure this was considered a "trouble"!)

However, things changed in 1948 when Coatesville was devastated by the 1948 Good Friday tornado. On March 26, 1948, a destructive tornado blew through town, demolishing everything in its path. In the end, at least 14 persons were killed and most of the downtown buildings were leveled. With winds estimated as high as 260 mph, the tornado cut a path from Clay County (Brazil, IN) to Marion County (Indianapolis).

Over the years Coatesville rebounded and now boasts a Community Building, the Coatesville Public Library, Fire Department, a funeral home, a mill, several churches, and various downtown businesses. Coatesville Cemetery is located just south of downtown. Coatesville is host to an annual car show each year as well.

Do you know....

Which of Hendricks County Townships is largest in area?

Liberty Township

Where Montclair is located?

In southwestern Union Township

Which township has Hendricks County's highest hills?

Eel River Township

What the Pike's Peak Ocean to Ocean Highway was?

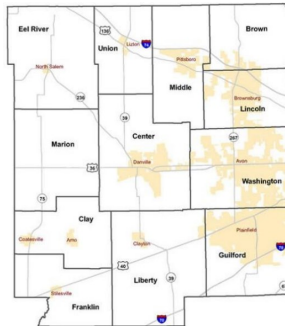
An early 20th century auto route which included the current US 36 through Avon, Danville, and New Winchester.

What Indiana Governor lived in Danville?


Ira Joy Chase

What town was once called the county's center for education and style?

Belleville



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



Indiana Memory We have over 2,000 pictures scanned and on Indiana Memory!
<https://digital.library.in.gov>

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

Follow us on Social Media! We post once or twice a week, including our very popular 'Then and Now' pictures. We have videos posted on Instagram, too.



WE DO HISTORY.
INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



The Hendricks County Museum was awarded a Heritage Grant from the Indiana Historical Society to support the care and conservation of the museum's textile collections. The grant, which was awarded in October 2023, will be completed this summer.

In addition to conservation hangers and archival quilt boxes, we were able to add three conservation forms which will allow us to properly display military uniforms, men's suits, and ladies' dresses. The board is grateful to the Indiana Historical Society for their support in helping preserve the museum's unique collections.

Shown above, volunteers Gail Tharp (left), and Diane Hunt (right) work with some Museum displays that will benefit from this generous grant.