

Hendricks County Museum News

November 2024

The mission of the Hendricks County 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

Where did October go? The warm weather did have me doing "just one more thing" in my yard before the weather permanently turns colder. At the Museum we had another successful Road Rally, many tours, fielding questions, setting up our Scarecrow on the Courthouse lawn, and greeting a steady stream of visitors at Scares on the Square. The Bicentennial Book was completed, too!

More about these activities in other articles. We will decorate the residence for Christmas and be open for the tree lighting November 8. Our last regular day is December 14. Even when closed for regular hours there is a lot going on from helping students, preparing new exhibits and taking care of our historical collections. If you have an idea for a display or research project let us know!

—Pat Baldwin

Upcoming Museum Events



- Christmas Time at the Museum, **Nov. 8-Dec. 14.**
  There will be no Candlelight Tour this year.
- **The Museum will be closed Dec. 15 through March 13.**
- **March TBD:** Secrets on the Shelf w/ Cascade Middle School.
- **May 3** *Dancing with the Hendricks County Stars* annual fundraiser.



We have some great Christmas items available! Come see our ornaments and books!

Become a MEMBER

It's time to renew your membership at the Museum!
All levels of membership are eligible to receive a $10 discount on a DWHCS ticket. If you are not a member, now's the time to join!

$25	Homesteader
$100	Settler
$250	Pioneer
$500	Trailblazer
$1000	Founder

dancing with the hendricks county stars

The DWHCS 2025 committee has started preparing for the 10th, yes TENTH! running of our annual fundraiser, *Dancing with the Hendricks County Stars!* (Actually, it's our 9th running, due to 2020 Covid Saga. We still had a great Silent Auction for that year and we so appreciated the unending community support throughout that time!)

This year's theme is "The Kentucky Derby", so plan to wear your finest hats, dresses, and linen suits for the event. As always, with your museum membership, you receive a discount on your ticket. Stay tuned as more information develops and mark the date: **May 3, 2025**, as the place to be!



We now have handrails to make entering our storage building easier!! Thank you Bucy Construction!

"Hats off" to all who participated!

The Ladies' Tea held in August, "Hats Off to 200 Years" was well attended! Many hats were on display and modeled as guests learned about practical uses and the many styles of hats over the years. Shawn Burcham and Laney Collier presented a very informative slideshow describing how fashion icons, from Royalty to Hollywood have influenced what has been considered fashionable for many years.



As usual, the Courthouse Grounds provided delicious sandwiches, treats and teas for us to enjoy.

Thank you to all who were involved in this fun event!

October 5 was a bright beautiful day for our 10th annual Road Rally. The route went by some of the locations of Hendricks County's earliest settlers in Guilford and Liberty Townships. A life long county resident said she was on stretches of road she had never been on! The first men into the county looked for places with water, farmland, and game. Very quickly roads to points west and east had settlements like Belleville springing up in order to take goods to market and offer services to others heading west.

Thank you to those who participated!



The Museum was awarded an Indiana Historical Society Heritage Support Mini Grant in the amount of $4,844 for the purpose of preserving the Museum's textile collection.

Heritage Support grants are provided by the Indiana Historical Society and made possible by Lilly Endowment, Inc. Thank you Indiana Historical Society!

In August Deanna Hindsley spoke to the second grade students of Brownsburg's St. Malachy school. She told them the history of their town, including their church, beginning with the first settlers in the Brownsburg area in 1824.

The next day, the students made a timeline of Brownsburg's formative years based on Deanna's presentation. It was a delightful experience for all!



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



Know Your Towns:

Reno, IN (Clay Township)

Located about 1 1/2 miles north of Coatesville, the hamlet of Reno's official plat was recorded on December 10, 1870. The Post Office was established on November 1, 1870, with Solomon Lentz as postmaster. On September 30, 1912, the office was closed.

Although never a large community, Reno was home to a general store, a broom factory, two blacksmiths, a shoe store, and a one-room school. In 1910, the population was recorded at 25.



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*

Calling all High School and College History Buffs!

We need you! Come spend a few hours a month with us as a docent! You'll learn more about our Hendricks History while you are sharing it with the visitors! We provide any information you may need for a tour. ***Added bonus to you: It will look good on your resume!***



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



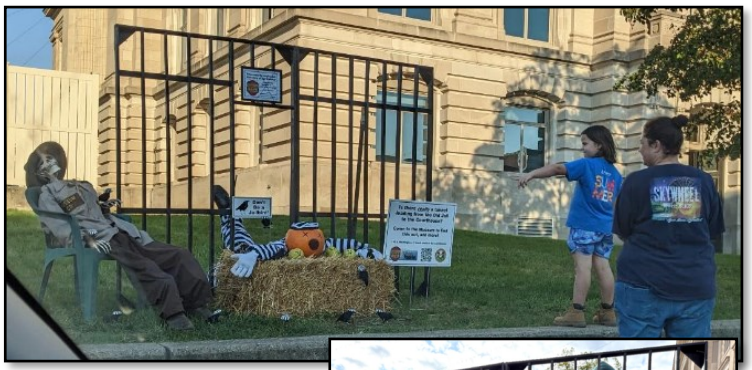
Diane Hunt, a valuable team member of ***Dancing with the Hendricks County Stars*** and dedicated Museum volunteer, recently passed away after a battle with cancer.

She was a generous person, donating her time to the Museum by cleaning and repairing historic clothing for display. She worked tirelessly decorating for the DWHCS event as well as other Museum events.

She is missed dearly by all who know her.

Dottie Robinson passed away during the summer. She and her husband Barry, helped with our special events. Most recently they put together a bookcase for our resource closet. Dottie always had a bright sunny attitude.

Museum Board Member Gail Tharp's sister, **Sharon (O'Brien) Bronson**, passed away in late October after a lengthy illness.





"Oh! There's the Sheriff! He's dead!!" exclaimed this little gal (above) as she and her mother walked around the Courthouse Square looking at all the Scares on the Square displays. Pictured right are Helen Corbitt's grandkids Abbigail (l) and Patrick (r) who got a taste of what it would be like to be a "Jailbird". Thank you to Gary Owen and Emily Hansen for putting the display together.



Thank you Libbe Hughes for taking time out on a beautiful fall Sunday to ready our gardens for winter! We can't wait to see what Spring brings! We so appreciate your Master Gardener talents!



About 400 visitors came to see the jail cells and get candy during Downtown Danville's Scares on the Square. We had a couple of friendly "inmates" and a skeleton greet them in the jail. Frequent questions: "Was this really a jail?" Yes, 1866 until 1974. "Can we see the residence?" Yes, Friday and Saturday 11-3 until Dec. 14.

We will also be open 6-8 p.m. before the Christmas Tree lighting on the Square for walk through views of the house decorated for Christmas.

HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

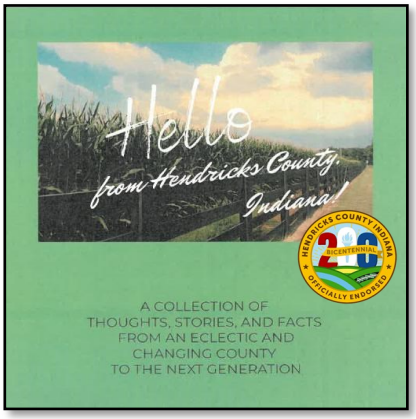
Inform Educate Preserve

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'Hello Hendricks County, Indiana!' book available soon



"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 the sense of the proper proportion 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 assist in making it a worthy story."

The above quote was written in the *Danville Republican* newspaper, May 8, 1924, as the people celebrated the centennial of the county and looked toward the future.

Individual Hendricks County authors bravely tackled the task of writing and representing each of Hendricks County's 12 townships, giving you a glimpse of where we are and how far Hendricks County has come.

The purpose of this book is to expand upon the previously published histories of Hendricks County, focusing on events and changes after 1945.

The editors embraced the differences in writing styles and content contributions from the writers. So the content may seem irregular and random, but we know that variety is the spice of life!

— Excerpts from the Introduction of *Hello from Hendricks County, Indiana!*

This special book published by the Hendricks County Bicentennial History Committee will be in print soon! It would make a great Christmas gift! We'll keep you posted via social media as to when it is available for purchase. Complimentary copies will be made available at our six county libraries as well as the Indiana State Library. Stay tuned.

SECRETS ON THE SHELF





Secrets on the Shelf will be held in March! This yearly event was started in December 2017 by Mr. Ben Neilson in the Cascade 8th Grade PACE History class. Students came to the Museum in September to gather information about certain items in the Museum. During the school year they work on learning more about these items and present a video showing off all their hard work at the Royal Theater in March. We are really proud of these kids and thank Ben for undertaking this project each year.

We have Secrets on the Shelf videos available from years past on our website. Take a look!

Secrets on the Shelf – Hendricks County Historical Museum (hendrickscountymuseum.org)

History Buffs and Teachers: If you or your school would like to start an exciting project like this, please let us 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!

Indiana Memory

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

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.

LIKE SHARE & FOLLOW

This pitcher is from John Thomas Hays' home in Danville, Indiana, donated by Kamala James.

It sat on the sideboard and held water for the three daughters and niece. They were not allowed in the kitchen because there was a large woodburning stove and they would get underfoot of the cook. Lieuellen was the oldest, then Nell and Grace. The niece was Willa. Lieuellen remembers this pitcher when she was growing up. It must be older than 1884. The water for the pitcher was pumped from the well.

Diane, as told by Alberta, 5/20/01

