

Hendricks County Museum News

May 2025

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

The Museum is open again on Friday and Saturdays, and it is always fun to see new visitors come through. We have already had several guests from out of State, groups made up of parents with children, families with out of town guests, Leadership Hendricks County, our DWHCS dancers, schools, church seniors, Danville Fire Department (not for an issue, they just wanted to see what we have), some of our regular visitors, and others who have never been in, and it is only the beginning of May! It is a joy to see the reactions to all our displays, and to have discussions about "they way we were". Our new exhibits are excellent, and our rooms have new displays too. If you haven't stopped by recently, come see your Museum!

—Pat Baldwin



Doris Jean Cook

Women's History Month

Heroes Come in WAVES

By Shawn A. Burcham, MLIS

(This article was written by Shawn and submitted to The CONNECT. Thank you Shawn for sharing this very interesting story with us!)

In honor of March being Women's History Month, we are highlighting one of Hendricks County's "first" women, Doris Jean (Miller) Cook, the first woman from Hendricks County to serve in the U.S. Navy.

Born in North Salem in 1922 to Dode and Leota Miller, Doris was the third of five children. A graduate of North Salem High School, she went on to attend Central Normal College in Danville in the early 1940s.

On July 30, 1942, President Roosevelt signed a bill officially establishing WAVES, Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service. It was the first program that accepted women INTO the Navy, not just as an auxiliary position. According to military records, Doris enlisted in the WAVES on November 14, 1942 and appears on the Stillwater, Oklahoma U.S. Naval

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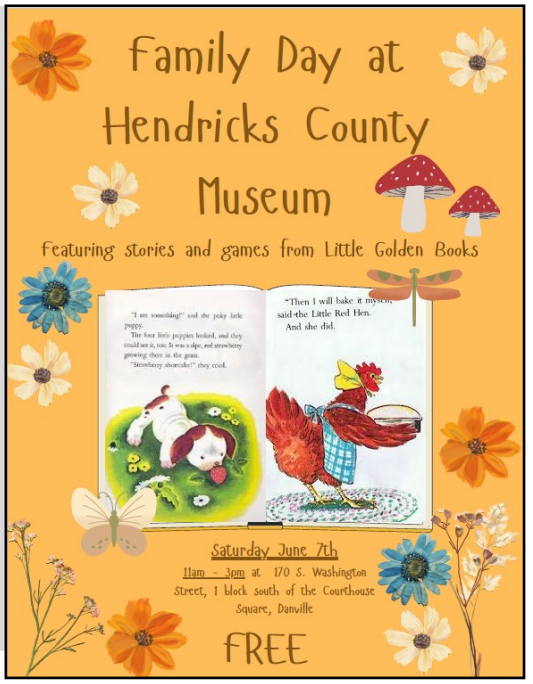
"Little Golden Books" celebration to be held At Hendricks County Museum June 7th

Kids of all ages are invited to explore the world of "Little Golden Books" on Saturday June 7, 11 AM to 3 PM, at the Hendricks County Museum. There will be many activities and exhibits throughout the Museum in which to participate.

Little Golden Books, a series of children's books published since 1942, revolutionized children's book publishing by making high-quality picture books affordable. Known for their bright colors, gold foil spines, and sturdy covers, the books were originally priced at 25 cents and sold in everyday places like supermarkets and department.stores You probably have a few relics on your bookshelf that you read as a child or have read to your children.

The *Poky Little Puppy* is a top-selling children's book. Other bestsellers are *Tootle, Scuffy the Tugboat,* and *The Little Red Hen*. Little Golden Books has also produced more modern editions that have biographies of celebrities such as Taylor Swift, The Beatles, Dolly Parton and Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

Contact the Museum for more information, 317-718-6158 or email them hcmuseum@co.hendricks.in.us. The Museum is open Fridays and Saturdays, 11 AM to 3 PM, March through December.



DWHCS celebrates its tenth year!

RAISED $61,000



By Deanna Hindsley

Hendricks County Museum's annual major fundraiser, "Dancing with the Hendricks County Stars", held on Saturday, May 3rd at the Hendricks County Fairgrounds was a race to the finish!

This year's theme coincided with the date of the famous Kentucky Derby, and many guests donned fabulous hats to come dressed for the occasion! Gary Vidito from Bardstown Kentucky's Stephen Foster Story theater greeted incoming guests with typical Kentucky Derby pre-race entertainment, playing the banjo and singing "Camptown Races."

A variety of silent auction items brought many vying for their favorite. All this was topped off with a sumptuous dinner from The Coachman of Plainfield. The Dessert Dash is always a favorite piece of the event with desserts donated by local bakeries and restaurants, each table bidding on the right to get first choice.

Dancer competitors were: Sumit Chawla of Hendricks Regional Health; Stephanie Commins of Hendricks County Bank & Trust; Hardy Hill of American Senior Communities; Kelly Knoll of IU Health West; Doris Maples of The Breakfast Company; Chris Postell of WM; Marguerite Raymo of Shaped Strong; Dalton Smith of North Salem State Bank; Logan Wallace of Hendricks Power; Angela Upchurch of State Bank. The dancers were trained by instructors at Arthur Murray Dance Center in Avon and gave great performances with their instructors.

The three dance judges chose Kelly Knoll as the Best Dancer named. Top Fundraiser was a close race, with Sumit Chawla pulling out ahead at the finish line, winning by a nose. Angela Upchurch, following closely, earning a rare "Fundraiser Special Acknowledgement" award.

The audience got to enter their opinions by voting for their favorite, awarding "People's choice" to Dalton Smith.

This was the tenth year for the event and many former dancers returned to support the Hendricks County Museum. For that reason, a "Wall of Fame" displayed pictures of all the dancers from each year beginning in 2015.

The event raised $61,000 for the Hendricks County Museum to continue telling the story of our county.

Make plans to attend next year's most FUN fundraiser in Hendricks County, May 2, 2026.

















Thank You to Our DWHCS Title Sponsors

American Senior Communities
ASCCare.com

Hendricks Regional Health

Know Your Towns: Hadley, IN (Marion Township)

Originally known as "Mimosa" (with the establishment of a post office on May 1, 1871), the town name was officially changed to "Hadley" on March 23, 1874. In between the name changes, Nathan Hadley platted the town into lots, with the approval of the Recorder of Hendricks County on March 28, 1872. Hadley was a quiet village, and at one time was home to a large general store, a blacksmith, a saw mill, a flour mill, and a post office.

Hadley, Indiana, was most well-known for the Hadley Industrial School for Girls, Established by Addison and Martha Hadley. The Hadley's deeded their 110-acre farm to the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) with the plan to open a home for "neglected, abandoned, and orphan girls" between the ages of 8-21. The purpose of the home was to train the girls in domestic sciences — farm life, gardening, cooking, housekeeping, sewing — and also to offer them an opportunity to receive an education to aid them for the future. The institution, which was dedicated on August 17, 1894, operated until around 1904 when it closed.



Hendricks County Museum Collections, Indiana Memory

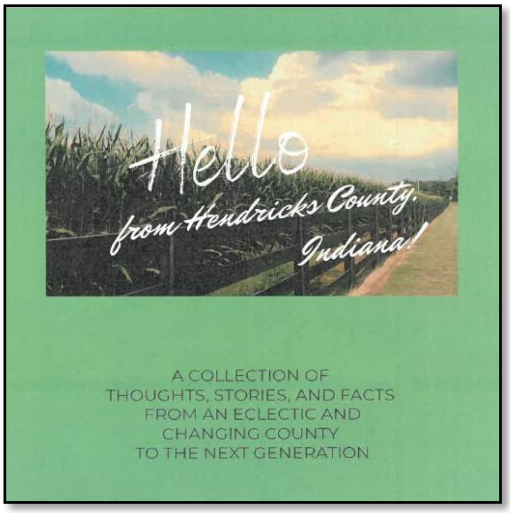
Did You Know?

….that you can view many items in the Museum's collection by going online? The Museum has more than 2,000 photos uploaded to Indiana Memory, a digital repository hosted by the Indiana State Library.

There are also over 1200 objects, photos, books, and archives viewable by visiting the Museum's PastPerfect Online site. Here you will find some of our featured collections. We recently added the Walter Newton Richardson collection which includes a WWI uniform, gear, and memorabilia, along with photos of the Richardson family who lived near Hazelwood.

We add new items to our online collections often, so be sure to check back regularly! You never know what you might find! Go to our website, www.hendrickscountymuseum.org, and click on the links provided.

'Hello From Hendricks County' Books available at the Museum



Oh! Those Desserts!!!

The Dessert Dash event, a "fundraiser within a fundraiser", never disappoints the audience! Here are a few of the beautiful creations from which the crowd was able to choose for their table.

The "Dash" earned about $11,000 for the Museum.



HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Inform Educate Preserve

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Come see this year's exhibit: National Registry of Homes and Bridges

In doing research on our display on houses on the National Registry, we learned some interesting facts about the families who lived in the houses: **Leander Campbell House (Judge Brill House)**, 498 E. Broadway, Danville. Built in 1838 by Leander Campbell, a teacher, principal and attorney, it was remodeled in 1885. In 1895 George Brill, a Central Normal Graduate and Danville attorney, bought the property. Elected Judge in 1913, he and his wife had one daughter, Gertrude Brill Bain. Her daughter Louise joined the Women's Army Corp in WWII. Over the Melodeon Organ owned by the family we have a photo of Captain Louise Bain shaking the hand of King George IV of Great Britain. Also in the picture are Princess Elizabeth, Queen Elizabeth and Lt. General James Doolittle.

The **Joel Jessup farm** is in Guilford township. Built in 1864, it was added to the National Registry in 1998. After the death of his first wife, Joel Jessup married Mari Allen Jessup. A graduate of the Northwestern University Women's Medical School, she practiced medicine in Hendricks County, having her office in their home and making house calls in a horse and buggy. In 1912 she ran for Coroner on the Prohibition ticket.



Leander Campbell House (Judge Brill House)

WAVES

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Training School Muster Roll in March 1943. Doris's daughter, Kerry Trout, said it was her mother's love for her country that prompted her to enroll.

What Doris did in the WAVES was a mystery to those at home. Upon her return after the war, they learned that she had served in Washington, DC as a cryptographer, or decoder. The Type B Cipher Machine, codenamed "Purple" by the U.S., was an encryption machine used by the Japanese Foreign Office from February 1939 to the end of World War 2. This machine transliterated Japanese text, meaning it would turn Japanese characters into characters in the English alphabet. The WAVES cryptographers were held to strict confidentiality and were considered one of the best-kept secrets of the war. They weren't even allowed to wear their rank (stripes) on their uniforms. It was after the war that Doris received her uniform insignia noting her rank of Quartermaster First Class. It was much later, 30 years, when Doris received medals for her service.



Women using Purple, the Type B Cipher Machine

After the war, Doris returned home to Danville and began work in the Hendricks County Welfare Office at the courthouse. Doris's daughter, Kerry Trout, recalls the story that one day in 1947, Doris was walking home where she lived with her parents on Broadway Street in Danville. A young man leaned out a window and whistled at her. This young man was Grover Cook, a student (and also a WWII veteran) at Canterbury College. Three months later, the couple were married. They went on to have five children.

According to Kerry, Doris's time in the Navy helped her grow as a person, but what she took away from it more than anything was a love for America. She was incredibly patriotic.

Quartermaster First Class Officer Doris Jean (Miller) Cook's U.S. Navy uniform is on display at the Hendricks County Museum.



98 News

Wanted:

Someone to volunteer to paint the outside first floor windows at our storage house.

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

HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

DATES TO KNOW FOR 2025

June 7 Children's Day "Little Golden Books"	**Oct. 4** Road Rally	**Oct. 25** Scares On The Square
Nov. 1 Afternoon Tea "Dolls"	**Nov. 28** Christmas On the Square	**Dec. 13** Museum Closing Day