

Hendricks County Museum News

August 2025

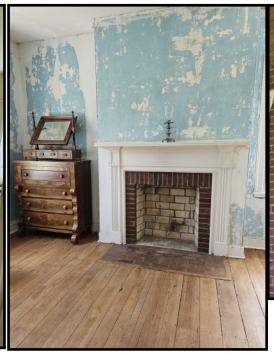
The mission of the Hendricks County Museum is to collect, preserve and interpret items relating to the people, places and events of Hendricks County and to stimulate public interest in the heritage of the county through education, exhibits and special programs.

President's Message

School may have started, but it is still summer! Our Friday and Saturday tours have been busy. Its always interesting to see what interests our various visitors. Recently all of the following: the jail (of course), the old bonnets, the wooden pipes, all of the piano and organs, high button shoes, the large secretary/bookcase, and chamber pots! What is your favorite item at the Hendricks County Museum?

Near my son's home in Virginia is Liberia, a brick home built in 1825. Being close to the two Battles of Bull Run, it hosted President Lincoln, Jefferson Davis, Generals Johnston, Beauregard, Meade and McDowell. It is now owned by the city of Manassas, and run by their parks department. This year it is only open for two hours on the Saturdays in August. Like us the items inside aren't from the home. What is there is beautiful, but sparse. And the inside is still in need of a lot of renovation. The summer intern and college age volunteer shared lots of information with me. Makes me proud of the condition of our building, our decor and our dedicated volunteers!







Liberia, VA

Other board members added a stop to county historical museums while vacationing. Mark Belloni and his wife, Teresa, visited the Lewis County Historical Society in Vanceburg, KY, and Emily Hansen visited the Johnson County Museum in Franklin, IN. It's nice to learn more about county histories and compare other museums to ours. Each museum has special attributes that make them special. We are very proud of our Hendricks County Museum! What county museums have you visited? Touring area historical museums gives an added dimension to your vacation spot.



Franklin, IN



Vanceburg, KY



The Hendricks County Garden Club has been working on the yard at our storage house at 98 W. Broadway. It certainly needs the clean up, and they have great ideas to beautify it as well! Thank you Garden Club!

DATES TO KNOW FOR 2025

Oct. 4	Oct. 31	Nov. 1	Nov. 28	Dec. 13
Road Rally Send us Your ideas!	Scares On The Square 6-8 PM	Afternoon Tea "Dolls"	Christmas On the Square	Museum Closing Day

In Memoriam


Gail Tharp


Ann Tussey

The Friends of the Hendricks County Museum lost two longtime volunteers recently.

Gail Tharp was a board member from the start of the Friends after taking over from the Historical Society. She was responsible for many of our programs and wrote several books on County history. She spent thousands of hours volunteering in the museum, doing everything from leading tours, handling email, decorating, and taking out the trash. We miss her everyday, she has left a giant hole in our hearts.

Ann Tussey was a long time volunteer. A retired Danville kindergarten teacher, she helped with many school groups and children's programs as well as lead tours.

Our two interns this summer have tackled organizing files, leading tours and helping in many other ways. **Elizabeth Lay** is a student at the University of Evansville majoring in history and archeology. She is from Brownsburg and will be heading back to school this month. Thank you Elizabeth for all your help and good luck!



Ariana Sayles is from Avon, and graduated from IUI this Spring with a major in history and museum studies. She is helping to keep track of our collections in the museum software Past Perfect and has some ideas to help us find things when we do displays. "I want to focus on collections work, such as storing objects and keeping them safe, detailing their location, and working to make the museum's collections available for everyone, whether that be online or in person.

"I got my love for museums from my 8th-grade trip to Washington, D.C., where we went to multiple museums. In particular, the National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) left the biggest impact on me, and was the first museum to make me cry and feel a deep attachment to history. Ever since then, I have wanted to protect history. I feel museums are the perfect places to do so, whether that be local history or the broader history of the world."

Apart from history and museums, she likes to listen to music and go to concerts to hear live music. She also enjoys reading mystery books and baking. She has four cats, a turtle named SpongeBob, and looks after her brother's two guinea pigs.

Ariana previously interned at the President Benjamin Harrison Home. We are fortunate that she plans on staying on with us.



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.



Welcome to our new Board Member!


Beth Eaton

Beth Eaton is thrilled to be the newest board member of the Hendricks County Historical Museum. She cares deeply about preserving local history and the stories connected to the people in her community. By day, she's a physician assistant, where education and clarity are at the heart of everything she does. Beth and her children have all served as museum docents—first her daughter, now in college, and currently her son, who has taken up the role. A proud Brownsburg resident since 2003, Beth lives in a home built in 1861, adding yet another layer of storytelling to her connection with the past. She's excited to help the museum grow, operate more efficiently, and explore fresh ways to keep local history vibrant and alive.

HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Inform Educate Preserve

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Newsletter Editor: Emily Hansen

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Hendricks Regional Health



Many of us in Hendricks County are cooling off during this heatwave at area pools and water parks. Danville Aquatic Center is dedicated to Billy Gill. He was the volunteer contractor for the original park pool, supervising and working with many civic minded volunteers to bring this this to the park. Born in North Salem and a Danville High School graduate, he served as a tail gunner in WWII. He retired as a masonry contractor, having worked on notable buildings like Clowes Hall in Indianapolis and the National Geographic Society in Washington DC, as well as our pool facility. He died July 1, 2005 leaving a legacy of community service.



Hendricks County Museum's 11th Annual Car Rally

Saturday Oct. 4, 2025 9-11:30 AM

Let us know if you have any ideas on what areas you would enjoy seeing this year or if you would like to help.

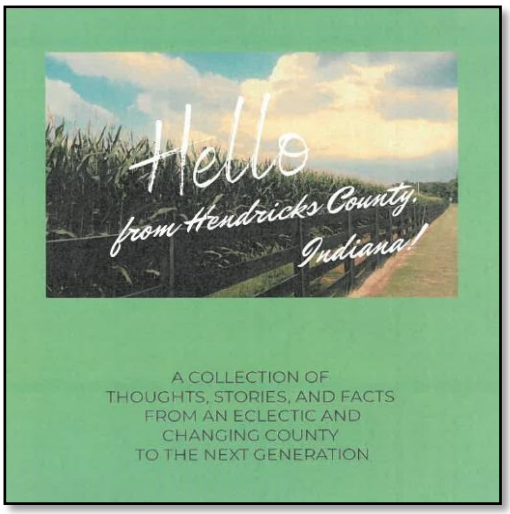
Last year we toured through Guilford and Liberty Township.

Hendricks County HISTORY TRIVIA

The hottest temperature ever recorded in Hendricks County, Indiana was 106°F in July 1936.

This record occurred during a significant heatwave that impacted much of Indiana and the Midwest that summer.

'Hello From Hendricks County' Books available at the Museum





….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.

"Take Me Out to the Ballgame" was written back in 1908 but has remained popular through the years. Composer Jack Norworth was not a baseball fan, but he was a fan of vaudeville actress and suffragette Trixie Friganza. Baseball was a man's game, not the place for a woman, but Trixie believed a woman belonged about any place she wanted to go.

The song originally had two additional verses using the name Katie Casey, but with Trixie and her cause in mind. Verse one uses the word "sou" which was slang for coin.

Take Me Out to the Ballgame

Katie Casey was baseball mad,
Had the fever and had it bad.
Just to root for the hometown crew,
Every sou
Katie blew.

On a Saturday her young beau
Called to see if she'd like to go
To see a show, but Miss Katie said, "No,
I'll tell you what you can do…

Take me out to the ballgame.
Take me out with the crowd.
Buy me some peanuts and Cracker Jack.
I don't care if I ever come back.

Let me root, root, root for the home team.
If they don't win it's a shame,
For it's one, two, three strikes you're out,
At the old ball game.

