

Hendricks County Museum News

November 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

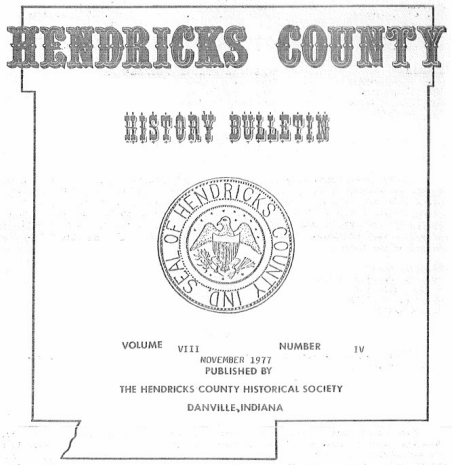
In 2025 we shared our history with many visitors and took that story out to the community. There is no one typical visitor, they range from toddlers to Grandparents, people who live down the block, and those that are on vacation from as far away as Germany. We have a few more weeks of being open on Friday and Saturday before we take a break, although we will keep busy working documenting our collection and preparing our displays for next year.

We so appreciate our supporters and donors, without you we just have a building full of "things" rather than an ever evolving vibrant story that we love to share with all.

—Pat Baldwin

Hendricks County HISTORY TRIVIA

Grand Opening for the Museum


HENDRICKS COUNTY

HISTORY BULLETIN

SEAL OF HENDRICKS COUNTY, IND.

VOLUME VIII NUMBER IV

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PUBLISHED BY

THE HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DANVILLE, INDIANA

Taken from the November 1977 issue of the Hendricks County Historical Bulletins (1970-1991), a quarterly newsletter of the (disbanded) Hendricks County Historical Society (Indiana). This is from the archives of the Plainfield-Guilford Township Library. Thank you Reann, for this incredible find! https://www.plainfieldlibrary.net/services/genealogy/hendricks-county-historical-bulletins/

Sunday, November 20 {1977}, is the day set for the Grand Opening of the Hendricks County Historical Museum, according to Dorothy Kelley and her Corps of helpers. If you haven't been there recently, you are in for a pleasant surprise. The roof has been fixed and papering and painting is in progress as we go to press.

One of our recent acquisitions is a most interesting medical exhibit which has been collected and prepared by the Brownsburg Girl Scout Troop #1010 under the guidance and advise {sic} of Sharon Calhoun. The girls have done a tremendous job and the exhibit itself is worth a visit to the museum.

A number of visitors dropped by during the Swap and Shop Days. We had a caller from the Indiana State Museum who had some nice things to say about our project. We can never thank Dorothy Kelley, Jewell Bell, Grace Cox, Mary Ann Moore and many others who have spent countless hours and great efforts toward this endeavor. They are certainly giving the Hendricks County Historical Society and Hendricks County something to be most proud of. Our hats are off to them!

Officers of the 1977 Hendricks County Historical Society were:
President: Mrs. Ed Winkleman, Pittsboro (note the "Mrs." and not her first name — a sign of the times, not that long ago!
Vice-President: Jack Gambold, Jr., Coatesville
Secretary: Mrs. Clarence Bray, Pittsboro
Treasurer: Mrs. Blanche Mean, Danville
Historian and Publicity Chairman: Miss Jewell Bell, Danville

Dates to Remember

Nov. 28
Christmas on the Square
Museum is open 5-7 PM

Dec. 13
Museum Closing for the Winter

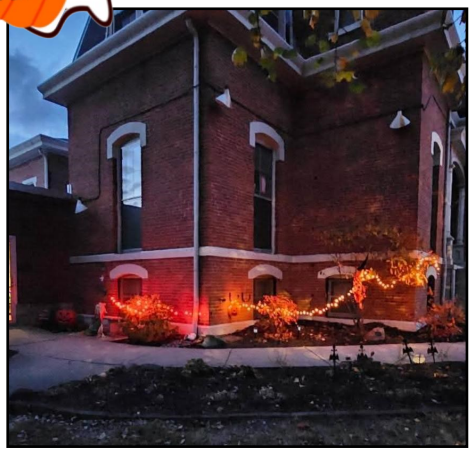
May 2, 2026
Dancing with the
Hendricks County Stars

Scares on the Square









We had less visitors than past years, from what we heard and others observed the trick or treaters seemed to take the opportunity after being at the activities on the Square to then go and visit the surrounding neighborhoods. We had 56, so had plenty of candy. We enjoyed seeing all the costumes. We were thanked for doing this over and over again, and several said they would be back to see the residence.

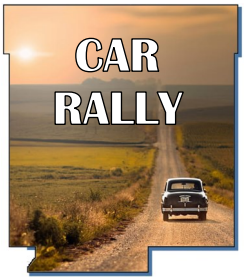


Wishing you all a healthy happy Holiday Season

The Museum will re-open in March with new displays!

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



On a beautiful Saturday in October several convertibles and other cars set off on our Road Rally. This year the route went past houses on the National Registry of Historic Places and Indiana Historic Markers, wandering through Center and Eel River Township, with a stop at the McCloud Park, the first Hendricks County Park. Along with the places on the Auto Bingo Cards, 163 American Flags were counted!

Members can request a copy of the route if you would like to follow it on your own.

Sometimes going down rabbit holes we stumble upon information that corrects or more fully explains what really happened. Recently finding the County budget in the Council's archives (available online) revealed that the Sheriffs received a salary, along with the beautiful residence/ jail, as early as 1904, about 40 years before we previously thought. Currently the Sheriff receives a salary, but no housing. "The more you know..."

It's time to renew your membership!

All levels of membership are eligible to receive a $5 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

HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Inform Educate Preserve

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'Doll's Day Out' Afternoon Tea



'A Doll's Day Out' Afternoon Tea was a huge success! About 60 attended; this was also our Museum Volunteer Appreciation event. Marty did an excellent job on the program; Beth presented it and "did a great job on the microphone", as one of our longtime guests stated. The Courthouse Grounds as always provided the best tea and sandwiches and the Danville Girl Scout Troop were excellent servers.

Dolls from the Museum's collection varied from a handmade doll that traveled in a wagon more than 160 years ago to an American Girl Doll. Several guests brought favorite dolls to share, including a Shirley Temple and a 1960s Barbie. It reinforced the idea that dolls are an emotional tie to our childhoods.

The Museum collection is much more extensive than we realized! Thanks to Melody and Ariana who helped gather, research and pack up the dolls.









These three dolls shown above were donated a few years ago by Gail Tharp, our board member who passed awy this past year. Her donation sparked the idea of having a Doll Tea Party theme this year! As always, Gail was full of ideas!

The two dolls on the right are George and Martha Washington, dressed by Gail's mother.



….that you can view many items in the Museum's collection by going online? The Museum has almost 3,000 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.