

# Hendricks County Museum News

**August 2026**

*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*

I am very grateful for air conditioning! While the units in the Residence aren't always keeping up with the heat, I can't but feel sorry for the sheriff's and their families who for most of the years the building was a home they had to rely on opening the tall windows and the front door, with the addition of electric fans once electricity came to Danville. It's been a busy summer so far (it is not fall even if school's have started to be back in session!). Several articles in the newsletter will update you on our activities.

—Pat Baldwin

## We appreciated our summer interns' help!

We were fortunate to have two seasoned summer interns who served as docents and jack of all trades. **Elizabeth Lay** from Brownsburg is a University of Southern Indiana History and Museum Studies major who returned for her second summer with us. **David Eaton**, a Brownsburg High School senior and long time volunteer stepped up into being at the Museum on Fridays and Saturdays.

Now that they are returning to classes, we will be relying on a lot of volunteers to keep our Museum open for visitors. We have a docents' guide, you do not have to go upstairs to the second floor bedrooms, and our Museum assistant Ariana will be here to help. Please consider volunteering for a day, or weekly, or whatever fits your schedule.

## Kids' Games On The Lawn



**Saturday August 1**





**11 AM to 1 PM**

**All Ages Welcome!!**
**Museum will be open for tours**

**August 8** from 11-1 local reenactor and history buff Brad Belcher will be at the Museum to show us about Revolutionary era guns and powder horns. He will be available to answer your questions and show part of his collection.



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**

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

# Bits & Pieces...






The Hendricks County Fair Board asked us to prepare a large display case honoring veterans as part of their America 250 Salute to Veterans. We also had a table on Military Appreciation Monday during the Fair. We were able to display Doris Jean Miller Cook's W.A.V.E.S uniform from WWII.

Doris was a North Salem graduate and was a student at Central Normal when she volunteered for the Navy.. One fair visitor stopped by with her family and told them "this lady helped pave the way for the work I did in the service".

We are glad to be able to share the stories of what we were, which shows the path we took to get to today.

We also loaned our canning stove and items to Master Gardeners for their booth display on gardening through the years.

Just after Dancing with the Stars, with all the heavy rain in May, the sump pump at our storage house failed, leaving 39 inches of water in the basement! Having just held our fundraiser, it was a relief to know we could replace and upgrade the sump pump system and the dehumidifier. Thanks to Bill Eddy Plumbing for taking care of us in our emergency situation! The good news is that the furnace is suspended from the basement ceiling and was not affected. Owning a very Old House (maybe built about 1850) can be an adventure in upkeep. This was at the house two doors down from the Museum, the Sheriff's Residence thankfully had no issues.

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dancing with the hendricks county stars

Robin Pickett, chairwoman of Dancing With the Hendricks County Stars has informed us of her resignation. We appreciate all the hours and hard work she put into making the event a success and a source of enjoyment for so many people.

We will continue to hold the event, the first Saturday in May at the Hendricks County fairgrounds. If you like working on big events, or decorating, or would like to be considered to be a dancer, let us know!

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*This photograph captured the last class to enter Pittsboro School #6. The school was located on US 136 at the east end of Pittsboro. The children pictured were first and second graders taught by Miss Pearl Oliver, an outstanding primary teacher. The photograph was taken in front of the old building, showing its wide front door and the large coatroom windows on each side. A broad hall led to two large classrooms: the primary grades on the left and the fifth and sixth grades on the right. Upstairs, two large rooms and a wide hall served the seventh and eighth grades, while one room housed the three-year high school program. The school was razed in 1913. Many of the children have been identified online in our digital collection. To view the names of these children and more photographs in our holdings visit our "Digital Collections" on our website under the "Collections" tab. www.hendrickscountymuseum.org. Our collection now holds over 2,700 digitized items.*



*Contributed by Linda Cook M.S.Ed, Linda is a Professional Genealogist, Board Member, and Manager of the Digital Project at the museum.*

We are still accepting items for the Museum's time capsule for America 250. The plan is for it to be opened in 50 years at the US Tricentennial. If you or your family or business have something to share with the future, bring it by.

AMERICA 250

**Upcoming events TBA:**
The **Road Rally** and the **Ladies Tea**. The Tea will have a different location at Courthouse Grounds. Keep watch for more details.

HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM
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