

The Henry County Historicalog

Vol No. Issue No.

"Bringing history to life...and life to history"

Spring 2022



Noteworthy performances

Gen. William Grose's home was filled with Christmas cheer in December, thanks to a spirited holiday performance by the New Castle Madrigal Singers. Time-honored favorites mixed in with whimsical holiday music that turned the Henry County Historical Society Christmas Tea into a delicious event. Our thanks to the talented students and their director Matthew Hurst along with Andrea Wilkinson Hughes, local musician and pianist.

Celebrating 200 years

Henry County gets ready for a big birthday bash -- and your Historical Society will be right in the middle of all the fun

By **KAYE FORD**
Historical Society Co-Director

Henry County, located midway between Indianapolis and Ohio with the National Road transecting its southernmost third, turns 200 years old this June.

Then-Governor Jonathan Jennings signed Henry County's "birth certificate" on 1 June 1822. Reunions, of sort, began in 1857, honoring the "old settlers" at picnics.

And, less than fifty years after becoming a county, Benjamin S.

Parker, a local poet and state legislator, proposed a county historical society.

In 1867, Parker penned an article for the local newspaper, saying, "Brave men and noble women, who while they bowed in self-sacrificing toil, forgot not the diviner essence, the immortal mind, but laid in the wilderness the foundation for better things than we have attained to. They are worthy of remembrance. We owe it to them, we owe it to ourselves, we owe it to those who shall come after us that a record

be made of their lives."

Finally, in 1887, Parker garnered the attention of nine other Henry County men and together they organized the Henry County Historical Society. This society met twice per year, in April and October, for daylong meetings of interesting and diverse speakers. By 1902, the society was entrusted with the 1870 Italianate mansion of Civil War General William Grose to be used for the sole purpose of a museum. For 135 of the

See 200 years, Page 6

This day in Henry County history

Darrel Radford, Henry County's official historian, has been featuring a "This Day In Henry County History" tidbit on the historical society's Facebook page. We invite you to like our Facebook page and go there daily for some interesting historical events that have happened in our county over the past 200 years. Here's a sampling of the Facebook posts from January and February.

On Jan. 1, 1968, the Dunreith train wreck, fire and explosion causes more than \$1 million in property damage but no loss of life. Dunreith was nearly blown off the map in a sensational explosion that caused more than \$1 million in damage. Following a spectacular two-car train wreck and the explosion of liquid chemicals on that frigid, near-zero night, newsmen and photographers from three states and firemen from 40 towns and cities converged on the small town.

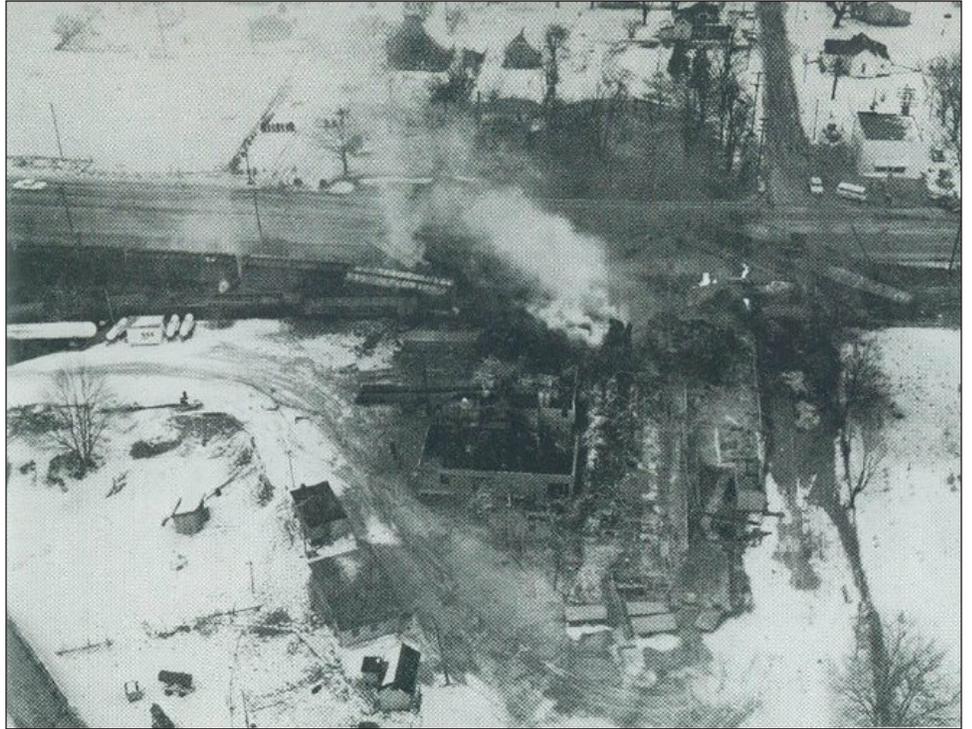
On Jan. 3, 1987, Sam Alford became the winningest coach in New Castle basketball history with 171 victories as New Castle defeated Shenandoah 81-64.

On Jan. 4, 1925, New Castle opened a brand new YMCA facility on Church Street. The building included a bowling alley, indoor swimming pool and a gymnasium named after Maurice Goodwin, a key promoter of the project.

On Jan. 5, 1948, Raintree County was published by Ross F. Lockrige Jr. It had Henry County as its setting and a picture of the courthouse here inside the book cover.

On Jan. 6, 1838, "Middletown" was officially changed to "Ogden" by an act of the Indiana General Assembly because another "Middletown" already existed in Henry County.

On Jan. 7, 1955, finishing



This area view shows smoke coming from what was described as a spectacular two car train wreck in Dunreith on Jan. 1, 1968

touches were being made to the new Joseph H. Greenstreet Elementary School in New Castle.

On Jan. 8, 1968, the Cadiz switchboard, the last manually operated telephone switchboard in Henry County, is used for the last time.

On Jan. 16, 1908, the first roller polo contest ever played in New Castle took place on North Main Street. A semi-professional team of Muncie players representing New Castle lost 2-1 to an Indianapolis club.

On Jan. 18, 1916, the "Carnegie Building" – a.k.a. New Castle Public Library – opened its doors for the first time.

On Jan. 18, 1941, the era of the interurban came to an end in Henry County as the last traction car made a run to Muncie and back to New Castle.

On Jan. 18, 1916, the New Castle-Henry County Public Library opens its doors for the very

first time.

On Jan. 18, 1994, temperatures in New Castle fell to 20 degrees below zero.

On Jan. 18, 1993, the Henry County Youth Center opened. It served troubled youth for 20 years, closing in 2013.

On Jan. 20, 1975, New Castle was looking for a new boys basketball coach after the resignation of Cecil Tague. Tague, who had led the Trojans to the Final Four in 1967 and 1971, submitted his resignation to the school board after nine seasons.

On Jan. 24, 1985, county residents were enjoying balmy 18-degree weather – warm considering just a few days earlier the temperature was 24 degrees below zero.

On Jan. 25, 1985, New Castle's Steve Alford, a sophomore for Bobby Knight's IU Hoosiers, ranked seventh nationally in the latest NCAA free throw statistics. He had hit 50-of-54 free throws.



Historical Society, extension office partner in new 4-H bicentennial effort

Henry County Historical Society Co-Directors Kaye Ford and Darrel Radford are working with Kelsey Meyers, the local Extension Office Director for 4-H Youth Development/Health and Human Services to offer a Heritage Project this year. The timing couldn't be better for youth to learn about the history of our county since it is a bicentennial year.

Here are objectives and details of the program.

- Learning Objectives
 - To create a sense of pride and awareness among Henry County's young people in its history, culture, and unique attractions.
 - To generate and restore county pride and awareness among all of Henry County's citizens and visitors to our county.

See HERITAGE, PAGE 8

Hurray for volunteers!



Our sincere thanks to Rachel Willis, a homeschooled student, for coming in during December and helping us arrange and transfer numerous photo books from the Museum Annex to the Boyd-Joyner House next store for safe storage. The books contain more than two decades of photo negatives taken by now-retired Courier-Times photographer John Guglielmi. They will provide the museum with an excellent historical resource covering the late 1980s, 1990s and 2000s. We appreciate John's donation of these books. If you'd like to volunteer at the museum, please let us know by calling 529-4028 and leaving a message.

Plans under way for society's annual meeting this April

Mark your calendars for the Henry County Historical Society's 135th annual meeting scheduled Sunday, April 24, from 2 to 4 p.m.

Plans are still being formulated, but officials say those interested in Henry County history won't want to miss this event, especially during our bicentennial year. Watch for more details about the meeting to be announced soon.

Poetic justice

Gen. Omar Bundy's heroic actions captured in a poem

By DARREL RADFORD
Henry County Historian

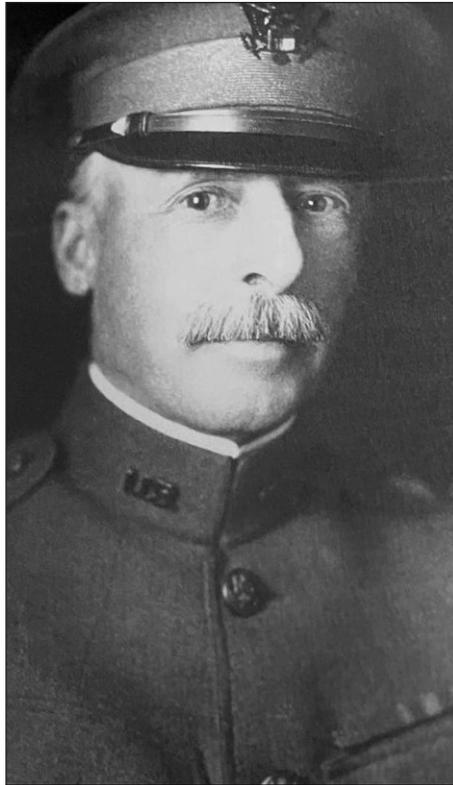
Anyone who thinks small can't become mighty needs to look at the big cannon in Henry County Memorial Park. It weighs nearly 20,000 pounds. A short distance down this hill, one of the park's newest monuments tells the story of how a 5-foot 5-inch tall man led American forces in capturing it.

The year was 1918 and Gen. Omar Bundy, a New Castle native, served as the Brigadier General of the 1st Division of the American Expeditionary Forces in France. His troops were one of the last lines of defense when the Germans attempted to push through Belleau (pronounced bellow) Wood during a battle that took place in June. It was one of Germany's final attempts to take Paris.

In the battle, Bundy and his troops refused French orders to retreat. Bundy's official reply to the French remain inspirational words today, more than a hundred years later.

"We regret being unable to follow the counsels of our masters, the French, but the American flag has been compelled to retire. This is unendurable and none of our soldiers would understand not being asked to do whatever is necessary to reestablish a situation which is humiliating to us and unacceptable to our country's honor. We are going to counter attack."

The troops endured heavy casualties, but stopped the Germans 69 miles outside of Paris. Some



**New Castle native
Gen. Omar Bundy**

15,000 Germans were captured by the U.S. and French forces, including the two cannons now permanent parts of Henry County Memorial Park. Historians claim Bundy's triumph was a true turning point in World War I.

Bundy's actions became the subject of poem entitled "Where Bundy held the Paris Road" written by Willis O. Robb.

Where Bundy held the Paris road

*The morning battle flamed
and flowed*

*"The Marne is passed, the
line is bent.*

*Heaven speed our succor (as-
sistance), Heaven-sent!"*

*And Europe gazed with eyes
that glowed
Where Bundy held the Paris
road.*

*The Patient Frenchman
counseled "Wait!"
The Hun but hurries to his
fate.*

*It was but now the battle
broke –
Tomorrow – and the counter-
stroke!*

*But pale the star of patience
showed
Where Bundy held the Paris
road*

*Said Bundy to the high com-
mand
"None of our men would under-
stand!"*

*The Stars and Stripes are
driven back?*

*Impossible! We shall attack!"
And forward line-on-line
they strode*

*Where Bundy held the Paris
road*

*And when night brought the
long day's end*

*The dead that filled the river
bend*

*Were German dead and Eu-
rope knew*

*And freedom all her bugles
blew*

*And once more French the
river flowed*

*Where Bundy held the Paris
road*

Bundy and his wife, Addie, whose generosity made New Castle's Bundy Auditorium possible, are buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Bicentennial plans taking shape

From The Courier-Times

Here is an official update on some of the events that will take place during the Bicentennial Celebration.

Beard-Growing Contest:

This happened 50 years ago and will happen again in 2022.

Watch for contest entry details coming soon. Winners of different categories will be announced in June 2022 at a downtown event.

Passport to Henry County:

This will be a fun event for folks to explore Henry County's treasures and businesses. There will be 30 sites for this. The places are being finalized this week. Local businesses will sponsor each a site. There will be 30 prizes awarded plus one grand prize. If you are a business interested in sponsoring a site, please contact Rob Simmons at rob@greatdealsmagazine.net.

Henry County Time Capsule:

There was a time capsule buried in the courthouse lawn 50 years ago. Per the instructions of the Henry County Sesquicentennial committee, we are to open it in the year 2022. Plans as of now call for opening this on Saturday, June 4, 2022 (rain date, June 5, 2022). Throughout the month of June 2022, items will be collected to be reburied in our own time capsule. The committee will be surveying the community as to what should be in our time capsule, and that committee will make the final approval on items to be added.

Henry County Worship Service:

Planned for Sunday, June 5, 2022, for all denominations to come together and bless our home, Henry County.

Ice Cream Social

This event is scheduled for Saturday, June 11, 2022, at the Henry County Historical Society & Museum. Activities planned include pioneer trade demonstrations, self-guided tours of the Museum, and a "Tracing Your Henry County Roots" genealogy program.

Education

Many fun events are being



dren. There will be storytelling, trivia, and games. Contests for essays and costumes are in the works. February 2022 is "We Love Henry County" month. Contact Maribeth Taylor at mebtnc@nltc.net if you are interested in helping on this committee.

County flag contest

County Flag contest: Henry County does not have a flag. Watch for details on how to enter this contest and help create one for us.

Mural grants

Henry County Mural grants: Henry County 200 is offering four grants of \$2,500 each to create new murals or freshen up some that we have. The money can be used toward supplies or labor. Please see the application on the bicentennial's website at <https://www.henrycounty200.org/>.

Magical history tour

Henry County's Magical History Tour: Starting in January 2022, in partnership with the county's public libraries, small topic-driven gatherings will be held around the county.

Topics include African-American History, Women in History, Henry County Authors, Henry County Artists, Maxwell/Chrysler History, the Disappearance of Catherine Winters, Henry County Church History, Wil-

Americans, Henry County Sports, and others to be determined. These gatherings will be spread throughout Henry County and will be held more than once.

Memorial Park events

Memorial Park Events: Scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, June 18-19, 2022. The Golf Tournament at Memorial Park Golf Course is scheduled for Monday, June 20, 2022.

Knockout Tournament and Festival

Knockout Tournament, Festival

This is the pinnacle event of the bicentennial celebration, slated for Saturday, June 25, 2022. Knockout is a fast-paced basketball game where all participants line up, and the first two people in line try to knock each other out by shooting the first free throw. The Guinness World Record for the largest game of Knockout is 701, held by the Dallas Mavericks and achieved in 2015.

Henry County can top that with help and support.

Volunteers needed

The Planning committee needs volunteers of all kinds including referees, security, registration, vending, and just helping in general. Watch for our next meeting to find out more how you can help.

200 years

Continued from Page 1

past 200 years, the Henry County Historical Society and Museum has been home and guardian of Henry County's most treasured photos, documents, and artifacts.

The museum's collection includes a toll road sign, one of the oldest items, and a coverlet collection with pieces dating to the 1830s. Portraits of early settlers adorn the walls, works of art in their own right. The military collection includes Revolutionary War items through the Gulf War, with a heavy emphasis on the Civil War and World War I. Interested in natural history of east-central Indiana?

A special room is dedicated to just that. The early automobile industry is highlighted, as well as the Hoosier Manufacturing Company, the Jesse French Piano Company, and the florists who grew the renowned American Beauty Rose. Henry County is also the birthplace of Wilbur Wright, pioneer in aviation. The most personal part of the collection, however, is found in the Clarence H. Smith Genealogy Library.

Clarence H. Smith was curator of the Henry County Historical Society and Museum from 1922 until his passing in 1952. Smith literally lived to show visitors the Museum's collection and immersed himself in local genealogy. Because of Smith, the genealogy library is an integral part of the historical society.

Today, the genealogy library is full of helpful resources. General historical references are available that cover prehistoric history, colonial American history, military history, published resources about other states' and other counties' records, maps and atlases, lineage



Clarence H. Smith was curator of the Henry County Historical Society for 30 years. (Photo courtesy Mike Bertram collection).

society resources, city and county directories, high school yearbooks, and much more.

A donation of published Virginia and North Carolina early records was given, which is a significant resource when researching your Henry County ancestors, the majority of whom migrated from those two states. Studying how your ancestor traveled down the Ohio River? An original copy of the 1811 Navigator is available for careful review.

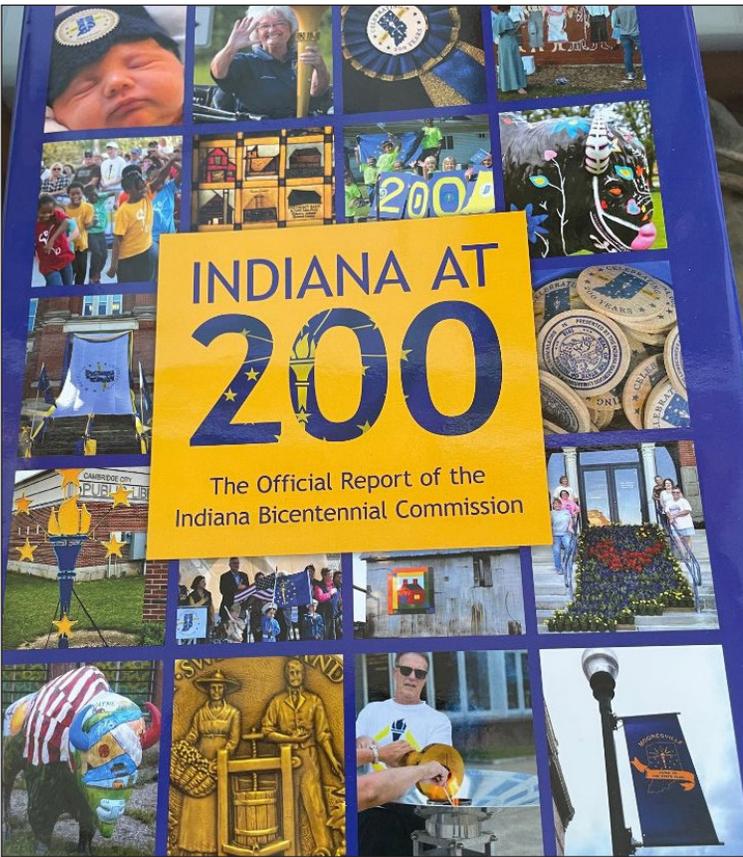
For more focused local research, there are files for each of Henry County's thirteen townships, including files for all the small towns that, at one time, were bustling with activity. Resources also include files about retail and manufacturing, clubs and organizations, churches and religion, and military. What would a genealogy library be without surname files? The library has those and picture files. As well, we have indexed 40,000 names, which is roughly half of the total in our card catalog collection. These will be published

online when completely indexed.

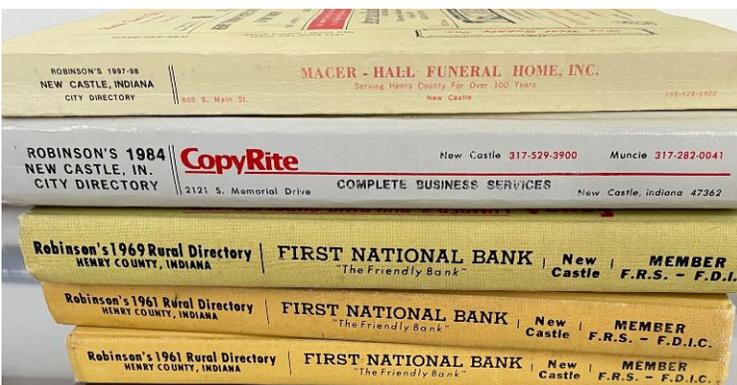
In celebration of the county's 200-year anniversary and the historical society's 135-year anniversary, Henry County Historical Society and Museum, as well as the bicentennial planning commission, Henry County 200, will be holding a special genealogy program called "Tracing Your Henry County Roots." If you had Henry County ancestors and need more research done about them, please consider applying to be highlighted on Saturday, June 11, 2022, at the Ice Cream Social. Three applicants will be chosen. The deadline for submission is March 30, 2022. The application can be emailed to HenryCountyMuseum@gmail.com or mailed to Henry County Historical Society, c/o Kaye Ford, at 606 South 14th Street, New Castle, IN 47362. The application is available for download here: <https://www.henrycounty200.org/ice-cream-social>.

Kaye Ford has lived in Henry County her entire life. She worked as a certified medical transcriptionist for the local hospital for 19 years before transitioning to work for the Henry County Historical Society and Museum. She has volunteered at the society since 2013. She has volunteered for the Indiana Genealogical Society since 2015, serving as the Henry County Genealogist, the East-Central District Director, and chair of the Publications and Membership Committees. She is also the chapter regent of her local Daughters of the American Revolution chapter, Sarah Winston Henry. She is currently attending Brigham Young University-Idaho to earn her bachelor of science degree in Professional Studies with an emphasis on Family History Research, scheduled to graduate in July 2022. In her downtime, she enjoys spending time with her sons, Ben and Nick; growing in her church; and scrapbooking.

Heaven for historical bookworms!



From the special Indiana bicentennial book above to the old city directories below and fun facts at the right, the Henry County Historical Society museum may have just the book for you. Call us to schedule an appointment at 529-4028.



BOOKS FOR SALE!

🔑

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📖

More Than An Almanac

INDIANA FACTS

A Comprehensive look at Indiana today County by County

Flying the Colors

A Hoosier Kitchen Cabinet for play -- just like mom's



During its lifetime here in New Castle, 4 million free-standing Hoosier Kitchen Cabinets were made. Many are aware of this but may not have known this miniatures were made as well. for children who wanted "to be just like mom."

**By DARREL RADFORD
Henry County Historian**

When Ann Van Zant was a young girl, she received a most unique gift -- her very own Hoosier Kitchen Cabinet in miniature.

"I got it for Christmas one year," Ann remembered

A daughter of Carl and Marie Diekman, Ann grew up in Rushville, but later moved to New Castle. She worked at Henry County Memorial Hospital for many years in the insurance department.

"I got a lot of good out of it," Van Zant said of the mini-Hoosier. "I don't suppose there are too many around.

Ann recently donated the mini-Hoosier to the Henry County Historical Society.

The Van Zant family has deep local roots. Ann's father had a business in New Castle -- "Diekman's Quality Bakery, located at 1228 Broad Street, according to the 1933 business directory.

Ann's late husband, Bob, was a World War II veteran and long-time postal worker here. Bob's father, George, was city fire chief back in the 1940s.

Ann's two sons also have deep ties to the area. Many may remember the voice of Rex Van Zant giving the latest local news on radio station WCTW in the 1970s and 1980s. Rex went on to write news for The Courier-Times and then serve the director of marketing and communications for the Indiana Arts Commission. Younger son, Scott, obtained his doctorate degree and teaches physical education at the college level. He is currently with Hanover College in southern Indiana..

HeritageContinued from Page 3

General Information

You will need to purchase a sturdy 3-ring loose-leaf notebook for your exhibit. A poster will also be required for Division 1, 2, and 3.

The notebook and poster will both be judged. The material should be typed, written or printed neatly in black ink.

Any decoration on the notebook is strictly optional. All work must be done in order - Division 1, Division 2, etc.

Information required for this project can be found in the fol-

- lowing histories of Henry County:
- *Historic Henry County, Volumes I, II and III*, Indiana by Herbert L. Heller
 - *Henry County at the Millennium* by Richard Pickering Ratcliff
 - *New Castle: A Pictorial History* by Darrel Radford
 - *Images of America: New Castle* by Darrel Radford and Doug Magers
 - *In Colored Circles* by Ricky Lee Cottman

A wide variety of other Henry County historical books are avail-

able at the Henry County Historical Society (606 S. 14th St., New Castle; 529-4028) or the Indiana Room of the New Castle-Henry County Public Library (376 S. 15th St., New Castle; 529-0362).

Information for advanced or more detailed projects can be found in the Henry County Historical Society Museum or by visiting the Indiana Room of the New Castle-Henry County Public Library. For more information about participating in this project, call the extension office at (765) 529-5002.