

The Henry County Historicalog

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

Special Edition November 2023

Dr. Tom Hamm to be honored for his 'historic' efforts



For Dr. Tom Hamm, genealogy is more than a field of study, a subject to be taught or an interesting hobby. Plain and simple, it's his life.

Whether it's researching the three different migrations that came to his home county of Henry or writing about slaves searching for freedom on the Underground Railroad, Hamm's painstaking research continues to benefit historians far and wide.

Because of his lifelong historical passion, Dr. Hamm has been named winner of the 2023 Dorothy Riker Hoosier Historian Award.

The award will be presented in a place

that has meant so much to Dr. Hamm -- and vice-versa: here at the Henry County Historical Society and Museum. Everyone is invited to attend the ceremony, scheduled 4:30 p.m. Thursday at the museum. Light refreshments will be served.

Each year, the Indiana Historical Society (IHS) recognizes outstanding individuals and organizations whose efforts have enriched the lives of others by conveying awareness and appreciation of Indiana's history on local, regional and statewide levels.

"These individuals and organizations have led and inspired so many Hoosiers

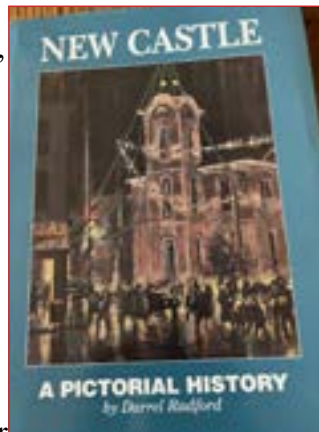
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Reserve your copy of the expanded NC pictorial history book reprint

History will soon repeat itself in a most positive way, and just in time for Christmas. The large coffee-table style book entitled *New Castle: A Pictorial History* has been updated and reprinted. Written by Henry County Historian Darrel Radford, the book features more than 500 photos of New Castle's past in addition to unforgettable stories that have shaped this city for more than 200 years now.

First published in 1992, this new printing will feature as many as 30 additional pages as well as updated information throughout various parts of the book. Printed by Winters Publishing of Greensburg, supplies will be limited to just 200 copies. The book is expected to arrive by the first week of December. Watch for more information about when and where the books will be available.

Priced at \$49.95, the 230-page hardcover book is
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Call 529-4028 or 524-0530 and reserve your copy with a \$20 deposit.

Win your very own Hoosier Kitchen Cabinet

With Thanksgiving and Christmas right around the corner, the Henry County Historical Society is offering a delicious event, one in which an authentic Hoosier Kitchen Cabinet will go home with a lucky winner.

On Sunday, Nov. 19, the society will turn back the clock to the early 1900s, when Hoosier Kitchen Cabinets were being made here and shipped out by the thousands. A generous donation by an HCHS life member has made it possible for one of those "kitchen pianos" as they were called back then to be given away in a raffle.

Henry County Historian Darrel Radford, who is co-director of the society and museum, will offer a

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Dr. Hamm

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with their passion for history, sharing their knowledge and work with others throughout their communities and across the state,” said Jody Blankenship, president and CEO of the Indiana Historical Society. “We are excited to be able to present these awards to the recipients in person, congratulating them on their efforts and showing them how valuable they are.”

The Dorothy Riker Hoosier Historian Award is named for Dorothy Riker, who was a 50-year employee and editor for the Indiana Historical Society and the Indiana Historical Bureau from 1929 to 1979. This award is made annually to a historian who has made distinguished contributions to the field of historical scholarship, including presentation, use of materials and preservation, or the affairs and activities of the IHS.

Henry County Historical Society Co-Director Kaye Ford nominated Dr. Hamm for the prestigious award. Darrel Radford, co-director of the museum along with Mark S. Orr, wrote letters that accompanied the nomination.

“Whether it’s researching the three different migrations that came to his home county of Henry or writing about slaves searching for freedom on the Underground Railroad, Hamm’s painstaking research continues to benefit historians far and wide,” Radford wrote

“The Henry County Historical Society continues to utilize and share research done by Hamm. In addition to becoming an expert in the field of genealogy, Hamm’s books on Henry County cemeteries and the antislavery moment continue to draw interest years after they were published. He is, indeed, an historian whose work stands the test of time.”



This was the advisory committee in 1992 that helped create the book *New Castle: A Pictorial History*. More than 30 years later, the book that sold out of two printings is being updated and expanded, with copies expected to be available in early December. Call 524-0530 to find out how you can reserve a copy. Pictured here top l-r are: Dr. Donnie Hamilton, the late Betty and Fred Mann, the late Mike Bertram and the book’s author, Darrel Radford. Bottom: Richard McKnight, the late Betty O’Neal Giboney, and Dr. Tom Hamm.

Pictorial

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sure to be a keepsake for local residents interested in New Castle history and proud of their hometown as well as great Christmas gifts. All proceeds will go to the Henry County Historical Society and Museum, the oldest, continuously operating organization of its kind in Indiana.

Radford, who is co-director of the Henry County Historical Society, said reprint of the book is a dream-come-true of historic proportions -- at least for him.

“This was a joy to work on more than 30 years ago and has been a continued blessing in my life,” Radford said. “The book sold out of two printings and in the past 25 years or so, I’ve gotten repeated requests for copies. For the book to be available again is very exciting for me, particularly since it will help the Henry County Historical Society, a true treasure in this community.”

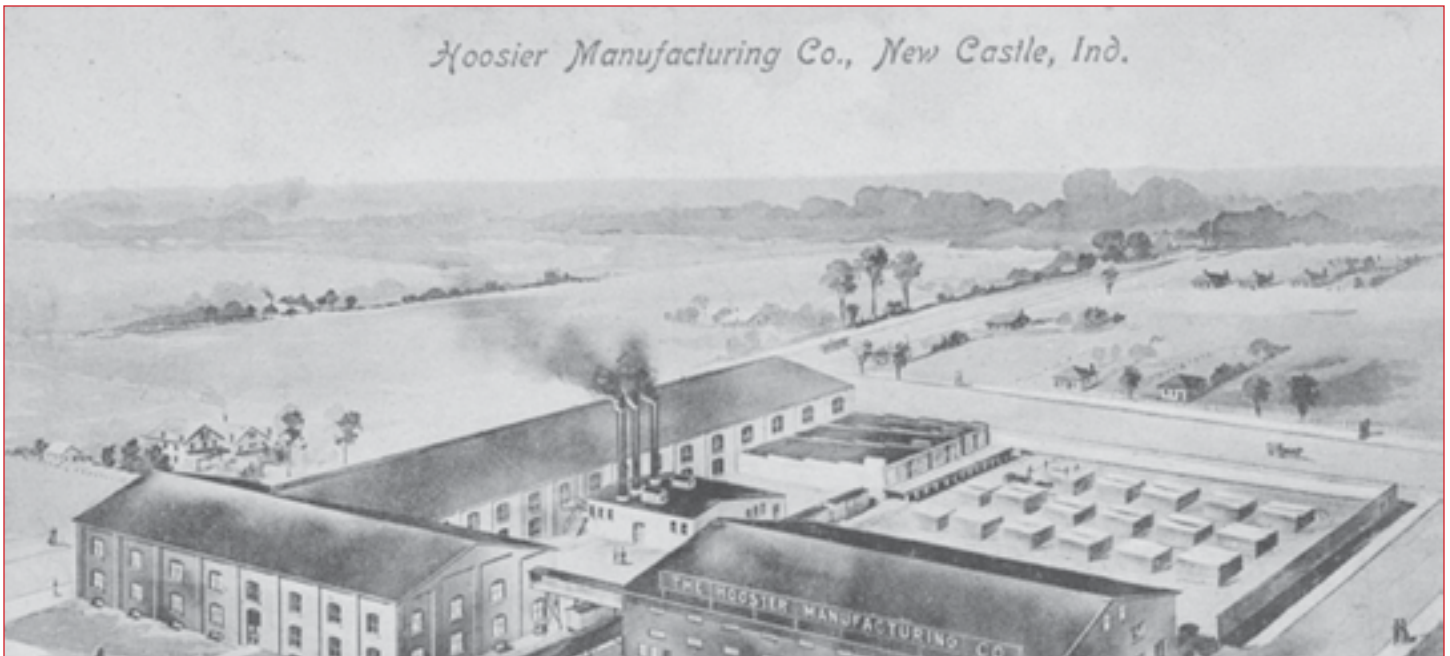
Citizens State Bank and the historical society made it possible for the book to be reprinted. The bank, which sponsored the original book, agreed to

purchase the copyright from Brad and Gloria Baracks, owners of G. Bradley Publishing in St. Louis, Mo. That company was the original publisher of the book. The Baracks recently retired, and were willing to sell the copyright so the book could be reprinted.

Money was also contributed by the historical society, Henry County Tourism, New Castle Bicentennial Committee and Randy Neal as well as Myers Furniture and Appliance to make the book reprint possible.

Among the book’s new pages will be:

- Two pages covering Henry County and New Castle bicentennial celebrations
- A page celebrating the artistic impact New Castle citizens have made on a national level
- Business and industry that has come to New Castle since 1992;
- A page dedicated to local veterans;
- Major sports events occurring in the past 30 years;
- A profile on Ward Canaday, inspiration behind the military JEEP.



Here's a drawing from the Henry County Historical Society files showing what the Hoosier Manufacturing Co. looked like at the peak of kitchen cabinet popularity.

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a PowerPoint presentation on the amazing history of cabinet makers James and Emmett McQuinn.

Radford's story will include such interesting angles as:

- What the company was making before Hoosier Kitchen Cabinets;
- How the company ended up in New Castle;
- How the owners accidentally named a New Castle city street;
- The staggering numbers behind the cabinets that were sold all across the county; and
- Vintage advertisements seen in *The Saturday Evening Post*.

At the conclusion of his presentation, the winning ticket will be drawn. The event is planned from 2 to 4 p.m. at the museum, 606 S. 14th St., New Castle.

Tickets are still available for purchase. They are \$20 or two for \$30. Ticket holders do not need to be in attendance to win the grand prize. To purchase tickets, go to HenryCountyMuseum.org on the web or come visit us Tuesdays through Fridays from 1 to 4:30 p.m. For more information or to reserve tickets, call us at 765-529-4028.

While there will only be one Hoosier Kitchen Cabinet winner, other prizes will be awarded, ranging from a life membership to the historical society, regular one-year memberships or two \$50 gift shop certificates. Light refreshments will be served. One-hundred percent of the proceeds will go to support the Henry County Historical Society and Museum, the oldest, continuously operating organization of its kind.



The Hoosier Kitchen Cabinet changed forever the way kitchens across America operated. Come to the Henry County Historical Society Sunday, Nov. 19 and see a PowerPoint presentation by Darrel Radford about the Hoosier Kitchen Cabinet. Buy tickets at \$20 each or two for \$30 for a chance to win a Hoosier Kitchen Cabinet. Call 524-0530 for info.

Remembering Edwards Jewelers

A downtown fixture for more than 100 years, the beloved store is closing its doors



H. Ray Edwards (l) started Edwards Jewelry Store in 1921. This photo, courtesy the digital archives of the late Mike Bertram, shows Edwards in the store during the 1950s. In the center photo, Alice Bowsman greets customers during a special going-out-of-business sale. Alice has been with the store since she was 17 years old.



From 1977, Steve Ditton, Dottie Eschenbrenner pose with Cindy James and James Edwards as they discuss the latest in cameras at Edwards Jewelry Store. Camera equipment was a popular items for years at the store.

Edwards Jewelry Store, a fixture in downtown New Castle for more than a 100 years, is closing its doors for good this month. At the top is a photo of store founder H. Ray Edwards with son, Morris. Below is an older photo of Morris Edwards, who was a presence at the store from 1956 to 1995. He died July 23, 2018.

