

HENRY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

Genealogical Repository and
Resource

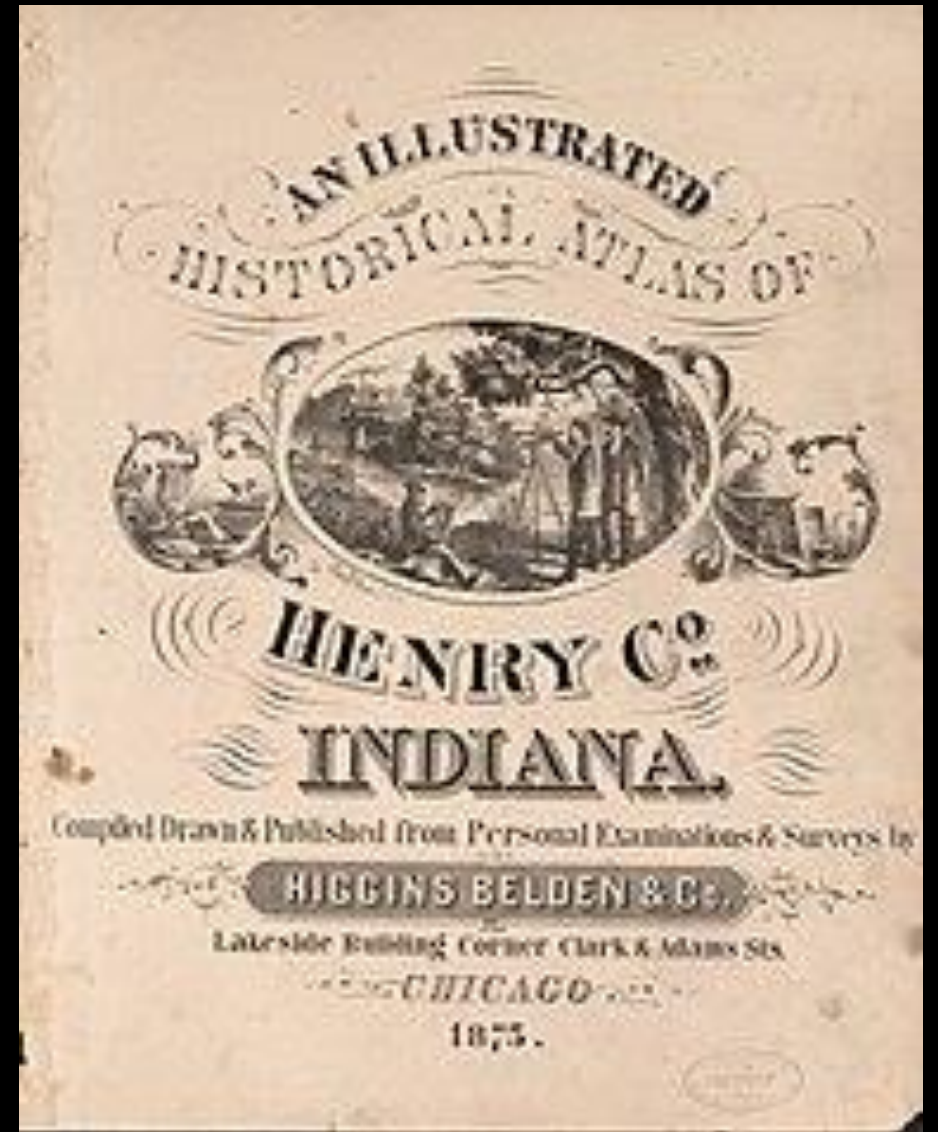
by Kaye Ford, HCHS Co-Director

© 2024



Location:

East-Central
Indiana,
including
Madison,
Delaware,
Randolph,
Wayne, Rush,
Shelby, &
Hancock
Counties



Brief History

- First noted in 1867 in local newspaper by Benjamin S. Parker, a poet and state legislator
- Founded in 1887
- Henry County bought the home of Civil War General William Grose in 1902 for \$5,000 to be used as a museum



Grose had this home built in 1870.

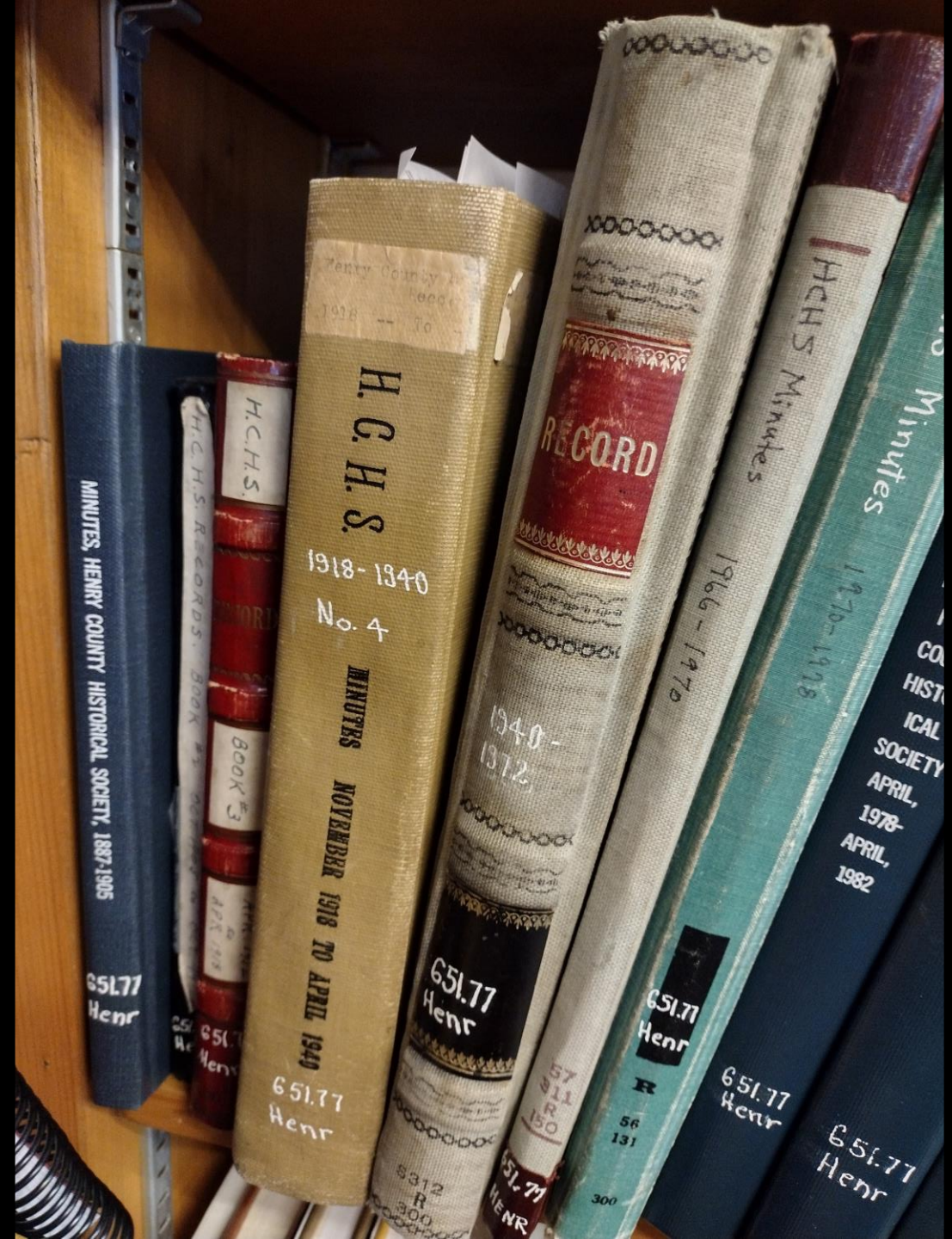
Museum Annex & Genealogy Library



Grose also had this small home built in 1870 for his adult daughter Sarah, her husband John Moore, and their children. However, they never lived there due to John's work taking him to the East Coast and later out West.

The Museum acquired the small home in the early 1970s. In 1976, both buildings were connected by a Pavilion.

Minutes of HCHS from organization in 1887 to present



Recording Accessions the Old-Fashioned Way

ACCESSIONS BOOK
HENRY COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Class "C" Anthropology			Department "H" Mound Builders & Indians										Division D Indian Relics, & Indian remains												133			
Number	No. of copy or articles in lot	Title, Name or Description.	Name of Donor with P. O. address.	Date of donation or purchase.			Donation	Purchase	Case	Shelf	File	Row	Shelf	Drawer	Pocket	Box	Chest	Portfolio	Scrapbook	Letter b'k	Back	Cabinet	Table	Wall	Room	Floor	REMARKS.	
				Day	Mo	Year																						
1		Stone Ax	Bonnie Chas M. Sullivan						2																			Indian relic
2		Indian Grain Crusher (Stone)	Myrtle B. Sloan			1894			2																			Found by donors husband John Doyle, about 2 18 92 on the local Pickering farm south of Newcastle. Supposed to have been used by Indians for rolling & crushing grain.
3		Collection of flints	Herbert J. Hellen	15	11	1912																						Gathered by Herbert Hellen in Sandy County - some near Knightdale. Some found by Miss Pittman on Elliott farm near Newcastle.
4		Indian Hatchet	James Williams	12	13	1912																						Found near Roberson.
5		Big Indian ax	"																									
6		Indian skull	"																									
7	2	Two Indian arrowheads	James H. Smith																									from grave of Indians opened at old site in Belle Co. near Indian River. Found up on upper terrace farm in Rich County.
8		Indian Pipe	Wm. E. Maroney	11	3	'23																						Removed by donor.
9		Indian relic	James Carpenter	11	3	'23																						
10		Core of hatchets & flints	James Morrell	15	3	'23																						Found in Ripley County. Found in Franklin Township.
11		Indian ax	Miss Florence Parker	15	10	'23																						From collection of Herbert Hellen.
12		Indian Tomahawk (?)	Benjamin Pressnell	12	'23																							
13		Mound Builders' ornament of stone	Herbert J. Hellen	15	10	'23																						
14		Stone for crushing grain	Joseph Hickman	4	4	'24																						
15		Stone tomahawk	Clarence H. Smith	18	8	'24																						From Bonneroville.
16		" Ax	"	"	"	"																						"
17		"	"	"	"	"																						"
18		Large Indian dart	Orin L. Maxey			'25																						(fine specimen) Found in Brown Co. O.
19		One from Indian boy	Miss Anna L. Ring	29	9	'25																						Killed near Pendleton in 1824 by the whites, two of whom were hung for it. Relic of Henry.
20		Indian skull	James H. Smith			'27																						Found in gravel pit at Westville, Va. in 1910.
21		Stone Ax	Rev. Gray Runkle	6	'27																							Dug up by the donor when a boy in
22	3	Indian Mortar	John Colvard			1930																						
23		Indian Pipe	A. E. Tamm	7	7	1930																						Found in N. E. Kentucky by Mrs. Laura J. Tamm of Clayton, Ky.
24		Stone Ax (extra large)	Miss Lodge	9	10	1930																						Wooden handle added in later years.



Old Courthouse Ledgers

These old ledgers were salvaged from the courthouse many years ago. They were going to be thrown out but were thankfully sent to the historical society. These records are some of the earliest records of Henry County. They include commissioner records, military records, wills/probate records, and school records. We also have stray records. A pen was situated on the west half of the courthouse property in the center of town. Found stray livestock was brought to the pen and appraised if the owner did not show up to claim his property (a book of marks was also kept). The livestock was described, and the names of the appraisers, who brought the animal to the pen, and who bought the animal were noted, as well as the date. This may have been the only record someone left while living in Henry County.

Available Resources



Family Surname Files



Family Surname Photo/Document Files

Containing original photos and documents.

Family Bibles



A bill equal to 100 dollars from the Confederate States of America, dated 2 August 1862. Found in the Christopher Hedrick Bible.



City/County Directories

- Earliest 1874, then jumps to 1901
- Reverse address lookup
- Fascinating city and county details and history



Published Family Histories

All donated to the Genealogy Library for future researchers.

At the far end of this shelving is where we store yearbooks from county schools, as well as Revolutionary War records.



WPA Index & Books

The Works Progress Administration (WPA) was formed during the Great Depression by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to create jobs. One of those new jobs was creating an index of names of early county settlers. Workers would scour certain references to index names. The references would be coded.

In this photo, the green books are the WPA indices. One of the resources used was *The History of Henry County Indiana*, the 1884 Interstate publication, which was coded "Hi." The three blue binders to the right of the green books is that resource. The other resources found in the WPA Index are located alongside the green books.



General City & County Files



These references include records about the county seat, New Castle, and the Henry County government. Other files found here include different ethnic groups, transportation, social life, parks, welfare, homes and buildings, health, disasters, and more. This is where school files are located for New Castle and the other townships in Henry County, including sports and class reunion files.

Yearbooks

We have a collection of New Castle yearbooks plus other yearbooks from schools around the county.

New Castle yearbooks (Rosennial) have been digitized and are available on the local library's website:

<https://nchcpl.org/resources/genealogy/yearbooks/>





- Artists, Authors, Musicians, Theaters
- Clubs: Women's, Men's, Children's
- Organizations:
- Entire drawer for the Hoosier Manufacturing Company
- Files for all military conflicts, DAR/SAR
- Local church files, categorized by township
- Retail businesses: Restaurants, banks, groceries
- Manufacturing businesses: D Handle factory, utilities, Jesse French Piano factory
- Two drawers dedicated to the Maxwell Factory and Chrysler plant

Township Files/ Museum Files

We have kept records about all our 13 townships and towns within those townships. The files include cemetery resources and photos.

We also have museum files: donor slips going back to the 1960s, grant paperwork, operating paperwork, etc.



Local History Resources

These books include older resources, such as George Hazzard's *History of Henry County Indiana*, as well as collegiate theses about early Henry County schools, churches, and the historical society itself.

We have books about all the small towns in Henry County, including ghost towns. We have the Henry County Sesquicentennial Book, as well as the original New Castle Pictorial History and the new, updated version. We also keep a collection of books by local authors.



Military Resources

We have books covering historical military conflicts, many about the Civil War.

In the Museum, we have the complete set of *The Medical and Surgical History of the Civil War*.



The photograph shows a section of a library or study with three shelves of books. The top shelf contains a mix of books, including 'The Quaker Yearning' by Coker, 'The Quaker Yearning' by Coker, and 'The Quaker Yearning' by Coker. The middle shelf is filled with books, many of which are part of a series, as indicated by the uniform spines. The bottom shelf is also filled with books, including 'The Quaker Yearning' by Coker, 'The Quaker Yearning' by Coker, and 'The Quaker Yearning' by Coker. The books are arranged in rows, with some standing upright and others lying flat. The shelves are made of wood and the books are of various sizes and colors.

← The Webster Parry Collection of Quaker abstracts

Scrapbooks & Miscellaneous

We have a variety of scrapbooks filled with unique and interesting items.

We have had folks metal detect on the museum property and have a box of items found on the grounds.





Eastern States Resources

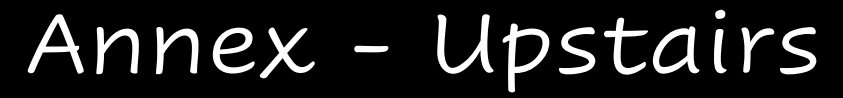
A donor brought us a wonderful collection of published resources about Virginia, North Carolina, and Kentucky. Many of our ancestors came from these states. We have several books about the organization of Indiana and early statehood.

We also have Indiana county history books for the nearby counties.

Card Catalog of Surnames & Cemetery Records

We are in the process of entering these index cards into a spreadsheet to put online. The cards have surnames when found in an obituary, scrapbook, or old courthouse ledger. The cemetery cards provide a reference of where a person was interred.





MAP CASE: Large, oversized photos, documents, maps, and artwork.

Clothing Artifacts

DRESS BOXES: Full of a variety of clothing from all different years, adult and children, military uniforms, accessories, shoes, etc.

We have a separate room for our coverlet collection.

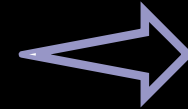




Pennsylvania
Archive
Collection



Medical
Reference
Collection



Clubs/Family History Overflow

Almost out of room here!
This is where we store
clubs/organizations' records
and also larger items of
donated family history that
won't fit in the surname
files. We have old Bibles,
unidentified photos, glass
slides, and 3 typewriters in
this room, along with many
other wonderful items!



Museum Closet (just off the boiler room)

I found this collection while poking around one day. I noted some old school records and old town records. Someday, I would like to empty this closet out to explore all of this!



Director's Desk



Maps!



Work Room

HENRY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

606 South 14th Street
New Castle, IN 47362

 (765) 529-4028



HenryCountyMuseum@gmail.com



HenryCountyMuseum.org



facebook.com/HenryCountyMuseum



youtube.com/@henrycountymuseum

BRINGING HISTORY TO LIFE &
LIFE TO HISTORY SINCE 1887!

