



## Special genealogy webinar set March 15

Family trees are growing everywhere these days, thanks to the surge in genealogy interest. On March 15 at 2 p.m., our own Kaye Ford will lead a special

webinar entitled “Getting It Together: Traditional and Genealogical Organization.” Register at <https://henry-countymuseum.org/.../getting-it-together.../>

# The Henry County Historicalog

“Bringing history to life...and life to history”

Spring Edition 2025

## Catherine Winters mystery to be revisited March 20

She was “very bright” and talked like a girl older than her age. She was considerate and helped with a church missionary fund. She was pretty and had skin without blemish along with “perfect teeth.”

But after March 20, 1913, this beautiful little girl named Catherine Winters was never seen again.

The Catherine Winters mystery that captivated and traumatized a community 100 years ago continues to intrigue people today.

On Thursday, March 20, 112 years to the day Catherine disappeared, a 6 p.m.

event is planned by the Henry County Historical Society revisiting a case that made headlines all across the country.

The public is encouraged to attend. There is no admission charge but donations will be gladly accepted. Local historian Mark Sean Orr has come up with an interesting new twist on Catherine’s story that will be shared

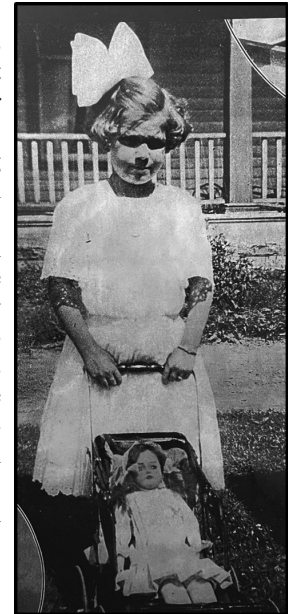
It was a sunny Thursday in New Castle on March 20, 1913. Catherine normally would have been in school. But as fate would have it, classes were canceled that day because of a measles

outbreak.

So, with her stepmother’s permission, Catherine left to sell sewing needles for a church missionary fund. She stopped at a home along Vine Street and played with her stepcousin, Jane King, in the 700 block of South Main Street. Catherine was instructed to return by 11 a.m. for lunch but newspaper reports said she was last seen peering into a store window at an Easter Display near Broad and 16th streets shortly before noon.

Sadly, missing children are all too common today, with as many as 800,000

See WINTERS, page 5



## Henry County’s most destructive tornadoes focus of April presentation



This Associated Press photo shows the mammoth tornado that hit Kennard April 3, 1974,

Two tornadoes, 57 years apart, remain historic events in Henry County, not just because of their destructive forces, but the inspiration that rose above the rubble.

On April 3 at 6 p.m. the historical society will host a PowerPoint presentation by Henry County Historian Darrel Radford examining the destruction of those

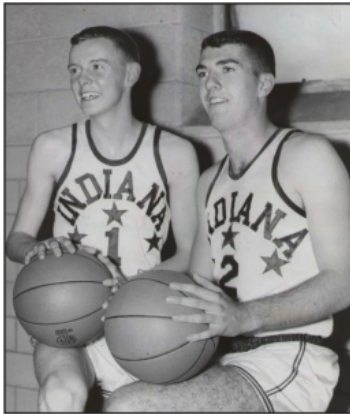
two storms. The program will feature many vintage photographs from the tornadoes along with poignant behind-the-scenes stories of heroism and miracles.

Be sure to mark your calendars for this encore presentation of “The tornadoes of Henry County: How inspiration rose above the rubble.”

### Museum back to regular hours

With the coming of March, the Henry County Historical Society is back to its regular hours. Come see us Tuesday through Friday from 1-4:30 p.m. or call 765-524-0530 for special appointments.

# This day in Henry County History



## Our top Facebook posts recently

Henry County Historical Society Co-Director Darrel Radford posts a "This Day in Henry County History" item every day on the museum's Facebook page. Here are the top five most popular posts in the past month or so. You can go to our Facebook page and see each of these posts. Better yet, become one of our "followers" and make a daily trip back in time.

1. Ray Pavy-Jimmy Rayl shootout ..... 73,547
2. Tim Brown, Morton Memorial graduate, NFL star and M\*A\*S\*H actor.....21246
3. Ed Sumpter pumping gas at Clark station....18,784
4. Remembering Steve Williams and Billy Ross...18,009
5. Snowstorm strands fans in fieldhouse.....17,398



This early photo of the New Castle Fieldhouse was obviously NOT taken during the Feb. 27 snowstorm

One of the most memorable times occurred in New Castle Fieldhouse years ago -- and it involved fans, not a basketball game. A Saturday afternoon snowstorm left thousands stranded. Read Darrel Radford's column about the unique event on our historical society Facebook page. Scroll down to Feb. 27

## This week in Henry County history

Brought to you by the Duke of York and the Henry County Historical Society

Some may remember people calling New Lisbon "Hamtown." The community's original name was, in fact, Hamstown. But on Feb. 2, 1837, "Hamstown" became "New Lisbon" by an act of the Indiana General Assembly, because there was already a Hamtown elsewhere in the state.

On Feb. 3, 1864, the body of Octavia W. Powell was laid to rest in South Mount Cemetery. Powell had been killed in the Civil War battle of Chattanooga five months earlier. His father, Simon, found him buried in a mass grave, thanks to initials tattooed on Octavia's arm.

On Feb. 5, 1918, Henry County's last abolitionist, Minn Williams Griffin, died at his farm house near Danforth.

On Feb. 4, 1977, New Castle Elks Club officials were celebrating a local youngster who won the district "Hoop Shoot" in Anderson. His name? Steve Alfred.

On Feb. 4, 1960, New Castle's Earl Benson was traded by the NBA's Milwaukee Bucks along with a first round draft choice to Detroit for Bob Lanier.

For more local history, visit the Henry County Historical Society's Facebook page or call us at 524-6530.



Some Henry County residents were still digging out from the "blizzard of 1978" on this date 47 years ago. The photo above shows Ross Street buried in snow. At the left is The Courier-Times page 1 coverage of the blizzard, which resulted in the newspaper failing to print for the first time in its long history.

### Black History Month spotlight

Frederick Douglass: spoke here

Frederick Douglass, one of the most influential figures of the 19th century, came to Henry County not once, but twice. Greenbrow Quaker Seth Hinshaw helped Douglass after he was attacked during a speech at Pendleton in 1843. Then, in 1876, Douglass came back to Henry County and spoke in the Circuit Courtroom of the current courthouse. His speech came before a packed crowd on Sept. 26, 1876.

He is still vigorous and eloquent, but has lost some of the fire of his youth. The New Castle Courier reported, "But when recounting the wrongs by the Ku Klux and white leguans of the South, his old fire seemed to come back."

## New weekly feature in The Courier-Times

Look for "This week in Henry County history" each Saturday in The Courier-Times.

Henry County historian Darrel Radford offers historical highlights and memorable photographs in this new feature. Also included is updated information about activities at The Henry County Historical Society. We greatly appreciate Duke Hamm for sponsoring this page, helping keep the state's oldest, continuously operating organization and museum of its kind strong.

# March Madness memories



Hoosier Hysteria remains a pleasant ailment this time of year in New Castle. In celebration of another March Madness tournament, here are team photos of the two Trojan state championship teams -- 1932 at the left and 2006 at the right. Different eras and rules, yet they shared two magical things in the common: determination and teamwork.

## Iconic phrase was born in New Castle

By DARREL RADFORD  
Co-director, HCHS

Search Google on the world wide web for the phrase “March Madness” and you get 227 million “hits.” But the words now so closely associated with the NCAA men’s basketball tournament can be traced to one source.

The year was 1931. The writer was Bob Stranahan, and he was sports editor of *The Courier-Times*. Like the claim of having the world’s largest and finest high school gymnasium, this one, too, can be verified. Chris May, executive director of the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame here in New Castle, brought the little-known fact to the attention of this newspaper.

“I’d heard that the phrase ‘March Madness’ had originated in Indiana referencing high school tournament time – and that’s something we’ve continued to tell folks who visit our

museum,” May wrote in an email to C-T Managing Editor Travis Weik. “However, today (Wednesday, March 4) I found out something that I never knew.”

May then referenced a recent column by Dr. Karissa Niehoff, executive director of the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS). Niehoff wrote that although the tagline “March Madness” became familiar to millions on a national scale in relation to the NCAA Division I Men’s Basketball Championship, it was first used in connection with high school basketball.

“Scott Johnson, recently retired executive director of the Illinois High School Association...discovered through research that the first recorded mention of March Madness in relation to basketball occurred in 1931 by Bob Stranahan, sports editor of the *New Castle Courier-Times* in Indiana.” [Source:

<https://www.nfhs.org/articles/the-nfhs-voice-march-brings-state-basketball-tournaments-and-talk-about-the-shot-clock/>]

So this writer took a short trip to the New Castle-Henry County Public Library for a deep time travel look at *Courier-Times* archives. And there it was – on the left-hand side of the Tuesday, March 10, 1931 edition. Under the column heading “Markin’ ‘em Up” was a headline that simply said “March Madness.”

Bob Stranahan was a native of Matthews in southern Grant County but later moved to New Castle and graduated from high school here. He worked at *The Courier-Times* beginning in 1926 and “attained a wide reputation as a high school basketball writer.” So wide, in fact, he later became sports editor at Richmond and went to do the same

See MARCH, page 6

# Maps and family history: a match made in genealogy heaven

By KAYE FORD, AG®  
Co-Director, Henry County  
Historical Society

Second of two parts

Map discussion continues in this Historicalog as we delve into the Sanborn Fire Insurance Map collection (<https://www.loc.gov/collections/sanborn-maps/about-this-collection/>). These can be found digitized online at the Library of Congress. HCHS has the printed 1924 volume that is noncirculating but can be viewed on the premises.

A brief history<sup>1</sup> of the Sanborn Fire Insurance Map collection (hereafter referred to as the “Sanborn Maps”) shows that there are approximately 12,000 maps of United States towns and cities from 1867 to 2007. Originally created to assess fire insurance liability in urban areas, these maps include detailed information about towns and building formation. The key word is urban, meaning medium- to large-sized towns. In Henry County, these include New Castle, Knightstown, and Middletown.

What can you find on a Sanborn Map? Per FamilySearch, “each set of maps represented each built structure in those districts, its use, dimensions, height, building material, and other relevant features (fire alarms, water mains and hydrants, for example). The intervals between new map editions for a given town or city in the early decades of the twentieth century varied according to the pace and scale of urban growth — from a few years to more than five years. In all, Sanborn produced 50,000 editions comprising some 700,000 individual map pages.” This is to say: the Sanborn Maps can be a treasure trove for a genealogist!

Let’s take a look at some Henry County Sanborn Maps over the years. Years available online at the Library of Congress are: New Castle: 1886 (2 sheets), 1892 (6 sheets), 1896 (7 sheets), 1901 (10 sheets), 1908 (17 sheets), 1914 (23 sheets), 1924 (29 sheets), 1949 (30 sheets);

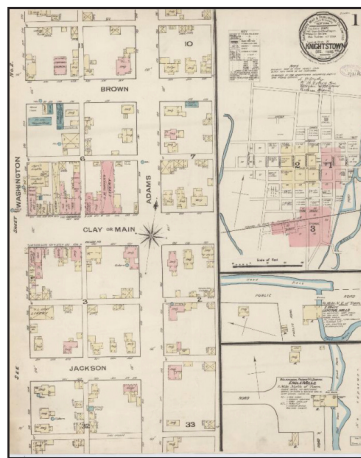


Image 1

Knightstown: 1885 (3 sheets), 1890 (6 sheets), 1898 (9 sheets), 1909 (11 sheets), 1916 (12 sheets), 1928 (12 sheets); Middletown: 1896 (3 sheets), 1902 (3 sheets), 1914 (3 sheets), 1926 (4 sheets).

I recommend reviewing the information on the Library of Congress website about the Sanborn Map collection, found here: <https://www.loc.gov/collections/sanborn-maps/about-this-collection/>. This will explain the information that was captured by surveyors, as well as describe the key used on maps, which explains colors and other symbolism used.

Image 1 is the first sheet of the 1885 Knightstown Sanborn Map. In the upper right-hand corner, you can see the town of Knightstown with two colors highlighted: pink and yellow. Pink covers sheets 1 and 3, and yellow covers sheet 2. The sheet number is in the upper right-hand corner of the page.

It is fascinating to see the mills that were highlighted in the lower right-hand

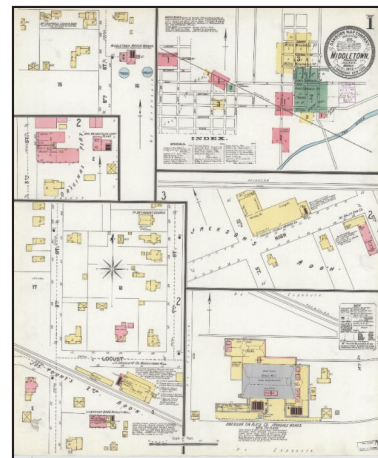


Image 2

corner: the East White Central Mills, located three-quarters of a mile northeast of town, and the Wilkinson, Peden, and Smith Eagle Mills, located one mile north of town. Many abbreviations are used on these maps, such as “Dw’g.” for “dwelling,” “Sal.” for “saloon,” and “Vac.” for “vacant.”

Image 2 is the first sheet of the 1902 Middletown Sanborn Map. The upper right-hand corner shows the overview of the three sheets included. In the lower left-hand corner, Liebhardt Bros. Woolen Mill is noted. The description notes: “No watchman. Owner lives on grounds. Heat: Stoves. Power: Steam. Light: Gas. Fuel: Coal & Nat’l. Gas. Double hand force pump. 2 barrels salt water. 8 pails 2d. Miller fire extinguisher. 50” 1” hose.

Steam jet in picker rm. Picker rm lined with tin.” According to the key,

See MATCH, page 5

# Kayennections

Continued from Page 4

the Liebhardt buildings were mostly frame and the main factory was brick. Image 3 is the first sheet of the 1908 New Castle Sanborn Map. This set includes seventeen sheets. The southern-most part of New Castle is the Krell-French Piano Co. and Maxwell-Briscoe Motor Co. on I Avenue.

The northern-most part of New Castle is the Indiana Shovel Factory, just north of Ash Street. To the west, the map reaches past 5th Street and to the Fairgrounds on Brown Road to the east. Did you know that New Castle once had a street named Okanasha Street?

Downtown New Castle is depicted on sheet 7 (Image 4). This is a terrific representation of New Castle at the turn of the

20th century. The blocks between Main Street and 14<sup>th</sup> Street and between 12<sup>th</sup> and Main Street are intact on the north and south sides of Broad Street, showing various businesses and dwellings.

Something I found interesting in comparing the 1908 Sanborn Map of downtown New Castle to the 1914 Sanborn Map of downtown New Castle was the business located just north of present-day Citizens State Bank. In 1908 (Image 4), this was a Coliseum and Skating Rink, a two-story brick building with stove heat and electric lights. In 1914 (Image 5), it was the Grand Theater. It was still a two-story brick building with a wood truss roof

and now noted two hydrants with a 50-foot hose attached. Sadly, a fire did break out on February 25, 1916, at the Grand Theater, claiming the life of firefighter George Conduitt.

The Sanborn Maps provide a wealth of social context for our ancestors who were “city folk.” Used in conjunction with city directories and newspapers, you can bring life to your ancestors’ lives with these helpful resources!

---

(1) “Sanborn Insurance Maps,” digital article, FamilySearch ([https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Sanborn\\_Insurance\\_Maps](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Sanborn_Insurance_Maps) : accessed 15 February 2025).

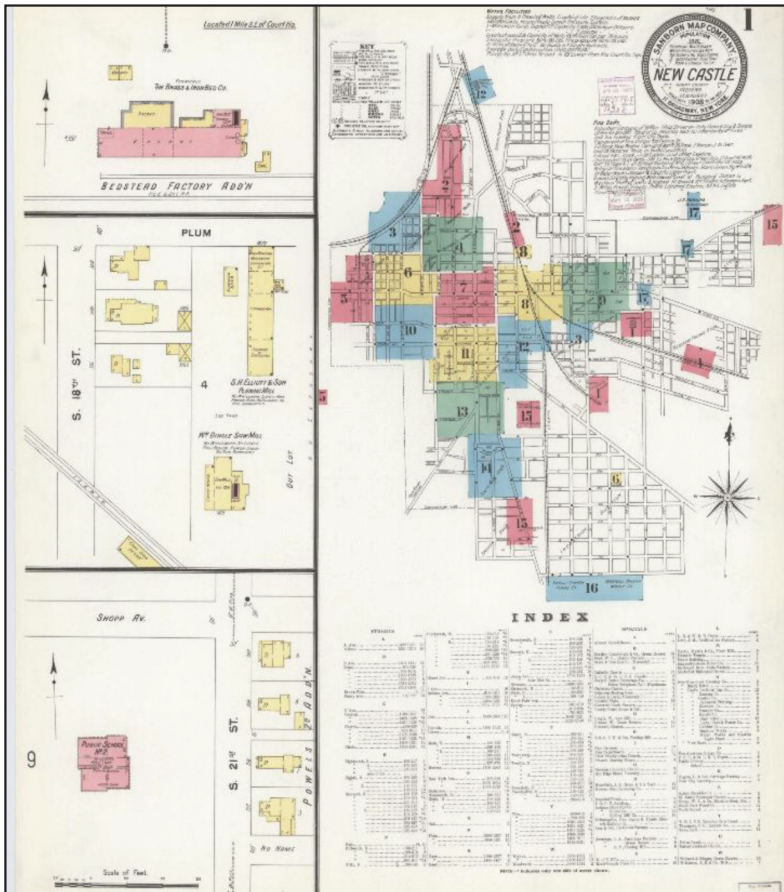


Image 3



Image 4

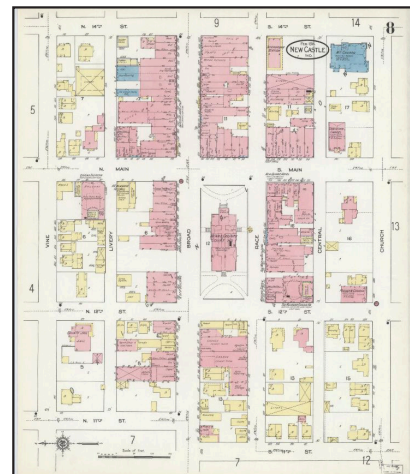
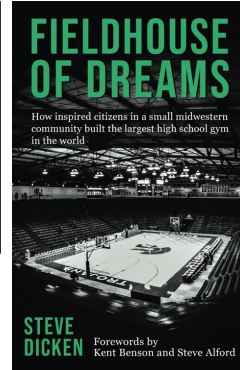
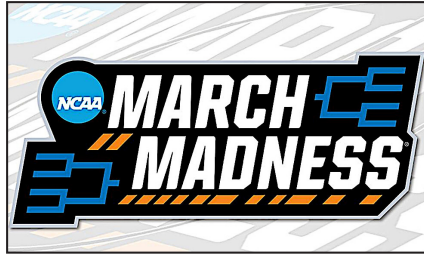


Image 5



**Markin' 'em Up**  
--by--  
Str--

**March Madness**  
The elimination of Anderson, Tech, Columbus and Shelbyville were only mercuries of what is to follow this week at the various basketball conventions in sixteen regional cities.



Bob Stranahan (left), a sports editor for The Courier-Times in the 1930s, is credited with the first mention of the now-iconic phrase “March Madness.” A new book, “Fieldhouse of Dreams” by the late Steve Dicken, is available at the Henry County Historical Society for \$25. Call 765-524-0530 to order yours today.

# March Madness

Continued from Page 3

job for The Indianapolis Star in 1937.

Stranahan’s other credentials included membership in the Indiana Sportswriters and Broadcasters Association, National Baseball Writers Association and the Indiana Press Club.

After reading some of Stranahan’s columns, one gets the impression immediately that he was quite capable of coining an iconic phrase. Here’s a sample:

“Just one more day of rest, and then all the whooping and hollering in the county will be turned loose. Goodwin gym will be a nice quiet place for a gentleman with an earache to spend the weekend – in misery.”

Stranahan had a good-natured give-and-take for years with The

Muncie Star’s Bob Barnet.

“Robert Aloyius Barnet writes things for the Muncie Star, and Robert Aloyius is very amusing... today he has quite a lengthy piece about Charles “Micky” Davison. Mr. Barnet is quite vexed at Mr. Davison, who forwards and guards on Pete Jolly’s basketball club ...oh quite vexed. It seems that Micky has contracted pink-eye .... only to have Mr. Barnet wind up saying ‘it will take more than the pink-eye to stop their Mr. Davison.’ Perhaps if the pink-eye won’t stop Mr. Davison, maybe New Castle’s Bob White can accomplish the feat!”

After New Castle lost a tight regional game to Muncie Central that year, failing to protect a late lead, Stranahan was philosophical, if not poetic.

“Speaking of that four-point lead...’tis better to have led and lost than not to have led at all,” Stranahan wrote.

Of course, New Castle basketball aficionados know what happened the year after 1931. “March Madness” had an exhilarating ending in 1932 with the Trojans winning the state championship.

Stranahan, who died Nov. 15, 1965, was married to New Castle resident Florence E. Duva. He is buried in Lincoln Memory Gardens Mausoleum in Whitestown, just outside of Indianapolis.

But oh, how his phrase lives.

---  
*Darrel Radford is a retired journalist and Henry County’s official historian*



## Remember when USA Today celebrated our Fieldhouse?

New Castle Fieldhouse was featured in this copy of USA Today on Thursday, Feb. 26, 2004. With headlines like “Fieldhouse is a cathedral to high school hoops” and “Gym at the heart of New Castle, Ind.” the national newspaper shared what we already knew. There’s truly no place like it.



This May, 11, 1921 photo shows a Grand Army of the Republic state encampment in front of the public library in New Castle. Thanks to Doug Magers and the late Mike Bertram for this photograph.

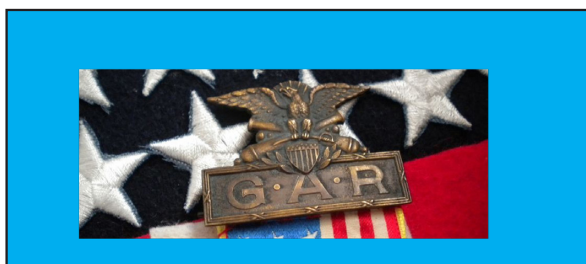
## Historical Society annual meeting to feature Grand Army of the Republic expert speaker

The 138th annual meeting of the Henry County Historical Society will be held 2 p.m. Sunday, April 27 and feature Ron Darrah of the Indiana Genealogical Society.

Darrah will be sharing Grand Army of the Republic information.

Everyone is invited to attend the event. Refreshments will be served.

The Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) was a fraternal organization composed of veterans of the Union Army (United States Army), Union Navy (U.S. Navy), and the Marines who served in the American Civil War. It was founded in 1866 in



Decatur, Illinois, and grew to include thousands of "posts" (local community units) across the North and West. It was dissolved in 1956 at the death of its last member, Albert Woolson.

Ronald Darrah is a native of West Virginia but has been an Indiana resident for over 40 years. He graduated with a B. S. in Education from Kent State University.

He is a former elementary teacher, a retired Indianapolis Public Schools supervisor, and a retired member of the U. S. Air Force and Indiana Air National Guard.

He currently serves as the Chair of the Indiana Genealogical Society affiliates, Society of Civil War Families of Indiana, and Territorial Guard Society of Indiana.

Earlier this year Ron was appointed as the IGS Marion County Genealogist

In conjunction with Darrah's talk, a brand new exhibit will open inside the museum: "Exploring the GAR in Henry County."

Also at the meeting the Henry County Historical Society Board of Directors will meet and conduct its annual election of officers.

The Henry County Historical Society was formed in 1887. It is the oldest, organization of its kind in the state of Indiana that has operated continuously without interruption. Come help us celebrate at this annual meeting.

# Become an HCHS Member Today!

## 2025 Membership Categories & Benefits!

### Membership Categories

- Individual \$25 per year
- Family \$30 per year
- Patron \$50-99 per year
- Benefactor \$100+ per year
- Henry County Genealogy Alliance (HCGA)
  - Bronze: \$75 per year
  - Silver: \$100 per year
  - Gold: \$200 per year
  - Platinum: \$500 once (become Life Member!)
- Corporate \$300 per year
- Life \$500 once

### Benefits

- Individual/Family: Free admission to Museum & Genealogy Library during regular business hours; quarterly *Historicalog*; and 10% discount in our Gift Shop.
- HCGA: All of the above plus one free webinar and one free genealogy-related meeting.
- Patron/Benefactor/Life: All of the above plus an Annual Event
- Corporate: Window decal for business; link on our website; and listing in our *Historicalog*

### Thank you for your continued support!

- o Bronze: \$75/annually; benefits: (1) genealogy webinar/workshop per year, no digitization
- o Silver: \$100 once; benefits: (1) genealogy webinar/workshop per year, *digitization of 10 items*
- o Gold: \$200 once; benefits: (1) genealogy webinar/workshop per year, *digitization of 20 items*
- o Platinum: \$500 once: (1) genealogy webinar/workshop per year, become HCHS Life Member, *digitization of 50 items*

### APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

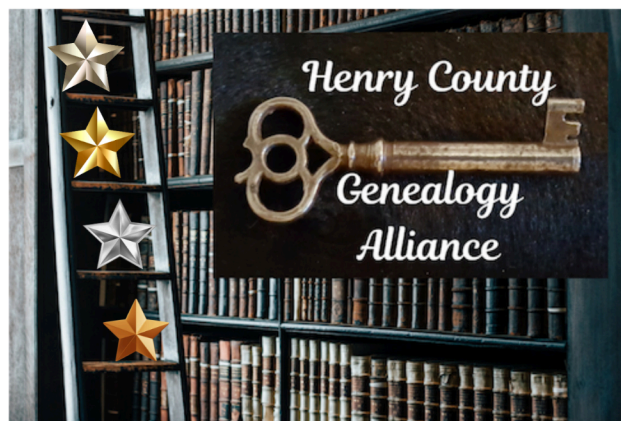
May we email correspondence and updates to you?

Yes  No

INDIVIDUAL	25.00/year
FAMILY	30.00/year
PATRON	50-99.00/year
BENEFACTOR	100.00+/year
HENRY COUNTY GENEALOGY ALLIANCE (HCGA)	
75.00/yr	100.00/yr
200.00/yr	500.00/once
CORPORATE	100.00/year
LIFE	300.00 once

Dues may be paid in cash or via PayPal at HenryCountyMuseum.org. You may send a check made out to Henry County Historical Society with 'dues' noted in the memo.

Thank you very much for your support of HCHS!



**Contact Kaye Ford, AG®,  
Co-Director, for more  
details!**

**For tours and/or research, please contact us by phone,  
email, or social media to make an appointment!**