



The Henry County Historian

The newsletter of the Henry County Historical Society
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Bishop Hill's Cady in the big leagues

"In Cady, Boston has picked up a man who looks like a first-class player. He stands more than six foot high and throws overhead dead to the mark all the time," observed Tim Murnane, the Boston Globe sportswriter, on March 16, 1912. Murnane was commenting on a promising rookie catcher named Forrest "Hick" Cady from Bishop Hill. Six months earlier the Red Sox had purchased Cady from the Newark Indians of the Eastern League for the princely sum of \$6,000 and two players. After the 1912 spring-training season, Cady accompanied the team north to Boston and went on to enjoy a seven-year career in the major leagues, including six with the Boston Red Sox on some of their greatest teams, most likely catching for Babe Ruth when the latter was still a twirler for the Sox, and including three World Series champions. From 1903 to 1907 Cady played primarily with the Bishop Hill club, though on occasion, he played for a semipro team from Kewanee known as the Clippers, along with his older brother, Victor. His career-changing moment came in a doubleheader against a team from Bradford, when the Clippers' regular catcher split his finger and was unable to continue. Even though he had never played the position, Cady donned the catching gear and set his professional career in motion.

In 1907 he tried out with the Rock Island club of the Three-I League, but was not offered a contract and went back to playing for Bishop Hill.

Toward the end of the season he caught on with Monmouth, an independent team, which sold him at the end of the season to Indianapolis of the American Association for \$300. After Cady returned home to Bishop Hill, he briefly played with the Kewanee

Boilermakers of the Central Association and finished the 1908 season with the Ottumwa Packers of the same league.

After the 1910 season he signed with the

Newark Indians of the Eastern League, where in 1911 he set personal highs in every offensive category except home runs. In January 1912 the Red Sox purchased his contract.



See our collection of historic Henry County sports memorabilia at the Henry County Historical Museum. (Card donated by Gerald G. Ericson)

School days, school days, good old-fashioned rule days

Time was, all of rural Henry County was dotted with a uniquely American symbol of free public education for all:

The one-room school.

The simple frame and brick buildings were often placed every two miles across a township, so a student never had to walk more than a mile to get there, in spite of all the “Ten miles uphill both ways” stories that were shared later on.

Before school each day the teacher hauled in the water, wood and coal, lit the heating stove, swept the floor and straightened the desks. There was no support staff. The teacher also laid down the law. Hickory switches were a popular choice for handing out punishment for misbehavior. There were always more girls than boys, because after about the age of 10 boys were usually helping on the farm and those who went to school did so only during winter months when things were slow at home.

In Henry County there was once a Fair Play School, Mount Sunny School, Dingley School, Happy Corner School, Cromein School, and one of the best names ever—Swamp College in Weller Township northwest of Bishop Hill.

There are those who will tell you they learned more in a one-room country school than anyone ever did in a university. They were how education was administered in rural



An authentic one-room school room is one of the highlights of a visit to the Henry County Historical Museum.

Illinois from the 1840s through the early 1950s, when the current community unit school districts were formed and closed the country schools.

Yet, having one teacher — usually a young, single woman (they could not be married) — and all eight grades under one roof was how several generations learned to read, write, spell and add, as well as about life and each other.

Editor's note: Many thanks to Dave Clarke of the Kewanee Star Courier for facts and thoughts shared for this article.

Got an idea? Give us a shout!

We welcome your input as to the stories, features and information you'd like to see on these pages in the future. Feel free to contact us with your ideas, plus any information you'd like to share regarding the history of Henry County.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Well-known area dentist a part of county history



A favorite exhibit for many visitors to the Henry County Historical Museum is the re-created office of long-time Galva dentist, Dr. Leo C. "Doc" Burky.

Dr. Burky maintained his practice for over 54 before retiring in late 1984. He died in April of the following year. Equipment from his office was donated to the historical museum later that year and continues to be an interesting part of what the museum has to offer its visitors and friends.

Dr. Burky first came to Galva in September of 1930, soon after graduation from Northwestern Dental School. He purchased the practice of



Dr. Earl J. Huston, who had followed his father, Dr. J.P. Huston. The Galva Chamber of Commerce honored Dr.

Burcky as Galva Citizen of the Year in 1974. He served on the Galva District 224 Board of Education for 15 years, four as president.



A Helping Hand. *Henry County Museum volunteers Connie Anderson, left, and Jean Mann examine some of the many pieces of vintage clothing that have been donated to the museum for display purposes. Our organization is always looking for "a helping hand" from its friends and members.*

Be a part of history...

Support the Henry County Historical Society

The Henry County Historical Society and its museum exist solely through memberships, donations and the support of its volunteers. We hope you'll join us in supporting our efforts to preserve and promote the history of Henry County.

Single: \$20
Family: \$25
Sponsor: \$50
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