Henry County Heritage

HENRY COUNTY HERITAGE

<u>Learning Objectives</u>

❁ 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.

<u>General Information</u>

❁ 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 following histories of Henry County:
   o <u>Historic Henry County, Volumes I, II and III</u>, Indiana by Herbert L. Heller
   o <u>Henry County at the Millennium</u> by Richard Pickering Ratcliff
   o <u>New Castle: A Pictorial History</u> by Darrel Radford
   o <u>Images of America: New Castle</u> by Darrel Radford and Doug Magers
   o <u>In Colored Circles</u> by Ricky Lee Cottman
   o A wide variety of other Henry County historical books are available 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.

❁ Please make sure to cite any sources used in gathering information for your project.

❁ Exhibit labels will be placed in the lower right-hand corner of the notebook and/or poster. Please leave room for this.

EXHIBIT REQUIREMENTS

Division 1

1. Choose a Henry County landmark. Exhibit a notebook with a one-page, handwritten or half-page, typed history of the landmark. Tell also why someone might want to visit the landmark.
2. Make a poster with pictures, articles, etc. about what you have chosen. Try to visit the landmark and make a photographic record of your visit. Examples of landmarks include the Henry County Courthouse, the big cannon at Henry County Memorial Park, the Henry County Historical Society Museum (home of Gen. William Grose), the Wilbur Wright Birthplace near Millville, the Guyer Opera House in Lewisville, the "globe and telescope" Knightstown Academy Building, Glen Cove Cemetery in Knightstown and John Hedrick House in Middletown.
3. Be sure to clear the landmark you have chosen with your leader or the Extension Office Educator before starting.

Division 2

1. Choose a famous citizen of Henry County. Exhibit a notebook with a two-page, hand-written or one page, typed biography of the person. Be sure to include notable achievements of person you have selected.
2. Make a poster with portraits of the citizen, articles about him or her, photographs of his or her home, etc. Some of Henry County's famous citizens that you might choose to write about are: Gen. William Grose, Gen. Omar Bundy, Lt. Gov. Crawford Parker, four-time New Castle Mayor Sidney Baker, Charles Hernly, Joseph Greenstreet, Indiana Mr. Basketballs Kent Benson and Steve Alford, Mary Caldwell (first woman elected to office here), Rita Sanders, Catherine Winters, Juanita Jane Rucker, Frances Goodwin, Helen Goodwin, Helen Magner and Gretchen Cryer.
3. Be sure to clear any other person with your leader or the Extension Office Educator before starting.

Division 3

1. Exhibit a notebook with a three-page, handwritten or one-and one-half page, typed history of your town. Tell why you like your town and why visitors would want to come to your town. If you live in a rural area, write about the nearest town (it must be in Henry County). If you live in or near a smaller town, such as Knightstown, Spiceland, Lewisville, Middletown, Mooreland, etc., you are encouraged to write about it.
2. Make a poster with photographs, articles, etc. Try to include both present and past. Interesting buildings, landmarks, and persons in your town should be included.

EXHIBIT REQUIREMENTS

Advanced Division

1. Choose one of the following suggestions or devise one of your own. Be sure to clear your choice with your leader or the Extension Office. Completed record sheets must be turned in with each project.
   a. Make a map of Henry County showing important towns, landmarks, etc.
   b. Write a historical paper (at least four handwritten pages or two typed pages) about Henry County.
   c. Write a research paper about one of Henry County's industries and tell why it is important to Henry County.
   d. Design a poster to attract economic development, tourists and visitors, etc. to Henry County. Include a logo and a list of organizations of interest to visitors.
   e. Write a history of one of the religious denominations in Henry County.
   f. Write a list of each of our county's elected officials. Tell what each is responsible for and how long he or she has served. Make an appointment to visit one of the officials in his or her office and briefly tell what you experienced.

It is recommended/suggested that all posters, notebooks, and display boards include a reference list indicating where information was obtained, giving credit to the original author, to complete the 4-H member's exhibit. This reference list should/might include web site links, people and professionals interviewed, books, magazines, etc. It is recommended this reference list be attached to the back of a poster or display board, be the last page of a notebook, or included as part of the display visible to the public. A judge is not to discredit an exhibit for the manner in which references are listed or a lack thereof.

The Henry County Heritage project record sheet should accompany your project notebook in each division and exhibited at the 4-H Fair.

HENRY COUNTY

History

Henry County is located in East Central Indiana on the Indiana-Ohio state line.

Henry County was formed in 1822 and named in honor of Patriot Patrick Henry, governor of Virginia, who famously said at a March 23, 1775 Virginia convention *"Give me Liberty or Give me Death*." Henry County was created on December 31, 1821 from the Delaware New Purchase. The county was officially organized June 1, 1822 and encompasses 391.90 square miles.

As of 2015, the population of Henry County is 48,985. The county seat is New Castle with a population of 17,621. Middletown and Knightstown follow in size and population. Other small towns in the county are: Cadiz, Dunreith, Grant City, Greensboro, Hillsboro, Kennard, Lewisville, Luray, Maple Valley, Mechanicsburg, Messick, Millville, Mooreland, Mount Summit, New Lisbon, Ogden, Shirley, Spiceland, Springport, Straughn, Stoney Creek, Sulphur Springs, Westwood. Not all of these small towns are incorporated but represent "that hometown feeling" -- where no one is a stranger and everyone is friendly, offering smile after smile!

As the nation knows, Indiana is the "Crossroads of America." It's no surprise that many major highways entwine the areas of Henry County. The Old National Road also known as U.S. 40 is the oldest of these cutting across the entire southern part of the county. Interstate 70 was built in the late 1960's taking a large amount of travelers from U.S. 40 and is a major thoroughfare today. Those seeking a more northern route can use US Highway 36 or State Road 38 depending on your destination.

State Road 3 is a major 4-lane highway which runs north and south, linking visitors to Muncie and I-74; Henry County is within a short drive from major urban areas such as Indianapolis, Cincinnati, Ohio, and northern Kentucky. Henry County abounds with history and nostalgic attractions offering the traveler an All-American getaway to make memories to be treasured for a lifetime! Rich in history, we have a museum dedicated to Indiana high school basketball, the home court of the movie "Hoosiers," and the birthplace of aviation's pioneer, Wilbur Wright.

Interesting Facts

- ✤ Demographics & Geography
    - o As of 2021, there were 47,654 people in the county.
    - o The county seat is New Castle.
    - o The county has a total area of 393 square miles.
    - o The county is the birthplace of aviation pioneer Wilbur Wright,
    - o The county includes 16 incorporated towns, most in Indiana, and 13 townships.
- ✤ Famous Residents
    - o Wilbur Wright (1931-1978) – was aviation pioneer who, with brother Orville, developed the world's first successful airplane.
    - o Gen. Omar Bundy, famous for refusing to retreat in World War I battle; his defiance likely saved Paris from the Germans. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.
    - o Kent Benson and Steve Alford, who each won the coveted Indiana Mr. Basketball award and led Indiana University to National Basketball Championships, Benson in 1976 and Alford in 1987.
    - o Gretchen Cryer (1935-) – is a successful playwright and mother of Jon Cryer, a well-known Hollywood actor.

Henry County Population by Year	
2020	48,914
2010	49, 462
2000	48,508
1990	48,139
1980	53,336
1970	52,603
1960	48,899
1950	45,433
1940	40,208
1930	35,238
1920	34,682
1910	29,758
1900	25,088
1890	23,879
1880	26,435
1870	22,862
1860	18,997
1850	14,725
1840	10,684
1830	6,498

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RECORD SHEET

Name _____ Grade _____

4-H Club _____ Years in Project _____

4-H Leader's Signature _____ Date _____

Why did you choose this project? _____

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What new information did you learn while working on this project? _____

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What sources of information did you use to complete your project (i.e., library, museum) _____

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What was the most challenging part of working on this project? _____

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