

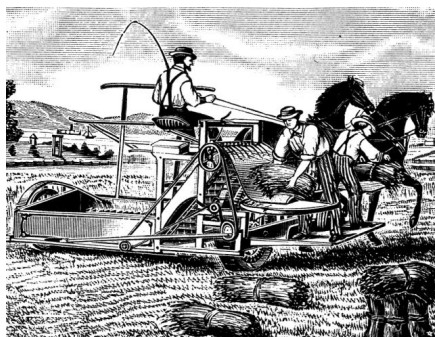
Hinckley Historical Society News

2020, volume 1

Innovations on the Farm By Jeff Wielert

It's often said that necessity is the mother of innovation and nowhere is that more clear than in farming. Farmers are always tinkering to make something work better, faster or with less human effort. Many of those ideas get patented and go on to commercial success.

Take for example the hot, back-breaking job of harvesting small grain. Farmers used to cut the oats by hand with a sickle, gather the stalks into bundles and then carry them to a thrashing area to beat the grain from the stalks. C.W. and W.W. Marsh of DeKalb developed a horse drawn machine that completed the task faster and easier.



During the winter of 1860, John Hollister and W. W. Marsh took the proto type and began mass production. They manufactured the "reaper" at Plano until 1880, when the Marsh Harvester Co. passed into the hands of E. H. Gammon and William Deering. The industry was moved to Chicago and subsequent changes saw it become the Deering Co., then the McCormick-Deering Co., and finally the International Harvester Co.

The Sandwich Manufacturing Company developed other machines and devices which eventually became New Idea and now, AGCO farm equipment. Visit the Sandwich Stone Mill Museum to learn more about these inventions.

Before the days of electricity, power on the farm depended very much on the horse, and muscle power of both the farmer and his wife. Then came the windmill, a great advantage for water pumping for the house and livestock. Calm days of course, demanded hand pumping unless there was a large storage tank.

A great technical advance was made when the internal combustion engine was introduced. Jacob Haish—who

once farmed in Pierce Township—developed an early 4 cycle engine line he referred to as "Cock O' The Walk." Sometime in early February 1909, Haish developed and manufactured a line of hit & miss engines he called the "Chanticleer." Compact, easy starting—a turn of the crank would start them popping away to run a pump jack, a buzz saw, a grain elevator and other tasks about the farm. The fly wheels would keep them rolling between explosions in the chamber of the one or two cylinders.

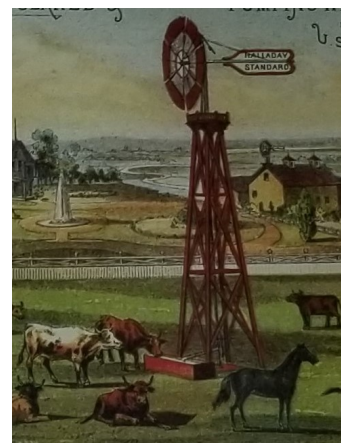
In the days of the steam engine and threshing machines, either the owner of the machines would contract with other farmers in an area to harvest the grain, or perhaps 10 to 12 farmers would go together and buy the machines. For \$4,000 to \$6,000 they could purchase a steam engine, separator, and a water tank wagon to do the threshing on member farms.

Threshing time was a big event and required a tremendous amount of preparation. Usually the engine, separator (threshing machine) and water wagon would arrive late the evening before, and the engineer, separator man, and water tender would spend the night.

The next morning the neighbors began to arrive for the day's work, six or eight bundle wagons with teams and drivers, plus the men in the field who pitched bundles, and another crew to feed the separators with bundles. If the grain was hauled to the elevator in town, a few more teams and wagons were needed.

All these workers had to be fed, so the wives and daughters in the neighborhood joined in... preparing the meat, peeling potatoes, baking bread, pies, cakes, fixing

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greens for salad, boiling sweet corn, preparing jams, jellies, pickles and relishes, fresh milled coffee and lemonade. This bountiful feast was generally served on plank tables set up on the lawn. Sometimes on a large farm, this meant working late into the evening, so the same process was duplicated for the evening meal. Moreover, on real large farms, sometimes it took several days.

Keep in mind, all this was before the days of electric ranges or gas stoves, electric refrigerators, mixers, or air-conditioning--innovations that have improved life for the family.

Another challenge for farmers was keeping livestock away from crop fields and gardens. Several farmers began experimenting with types of fencing. Jacob Haish, Joseph Glidden and Isaac Ellwood developed their concepts for barbed wire that made DeKalb manufacturing boom. Hinckley also had inventors such as C.C. Kennedy who received patents for his version of barbed wire

and a car. George Long invented a hog catcher and holder that would make it easier to handle large pigs. Burton Wielert developed a device for sorting the different sizes and shapes of seed corn for the DeKalb Agricultural Association.

Today modern innovations continue and as a result farmers can cut the ripe grain in the fields, thresh it, collect the grain and blow the straw and chaff back on the land. The operator is one person who rides in an enclosed air-conditioned cab with monitors and GPS guidance. A truck or grain cart may move alongside the combine and both machines will move together through the field as grain is harvested and unloaded thus saving more time.

Everywhere you turn there are farm innovations and they just keep coming when hard working individuals look for faster, easier, better ways of performing a task. Stop by the Hinckley Historical Society museum to learn more about farm and Hinckley area inventions.

Financial Report to Members

The financial year for the Hinckley Historical Society ends on December 31. The HHS Board of Directors wants members to be aware of the financial health of your organization and how funds are being expended. What follows is a condensed overview for Fiscal Year 2019. Please feel welcome to visit with Treasurer Deb Appleby if you have questions.

Revenue

Donations	\$22,773.75
Fundraisers	\$10,715.90
Grants	\$ 6,130.00
Membership Dues	\$ 1,735.00
Museum Sales	\$ 1,089.96
Interest & Misc.	\$ 119.35
Balance from 2018	<u>\$15,056.19</u>
Total available	\$57,620.15

Expenses:

Building Repairs	\$16,525.00
Loan Repayment	\$ 9,215.76
Grant Fulfillment	\$ 6,130.00
Fundraisers Expense	\$ 2,745.78
Utilities	\$ 2,676.26
Artifact Repair	\$ 1,950.00
Insurance	\$ 1,635.00
Office Supplies	\$ 1,394.34
Museum Sales Supplies	\$ 1,239.00
Misc.	<u>\$ 339.55</u>
Total spent	\$43,850.69

Balance to 2020 **\$13,769.46**

NIU Celebrates 125th

A number of Hinckley area residents have attended Northern Illinois University over its 125-year history and gone on to contribute to society in countless ways. One such graduate is remembered during the current celebration for being a member of the student newspaper's Hall of Fame—Linda Klein Means.

The Northern Star Hall of Fame honors former students who have significantly influenced the Northern Star, journalism or who have otherwise received acclaim based in part on experience gained at the paper.

Linda is a noted journalist and author who held a book signing at the museum last year where she discussed her life's journey after leaving H-BR High School. Her book is available at the museum.



New Board Member: Pat Bastian

I'm excited to be the newest member of the Hinckley Historical Society Board of Directors. My roots in Hinckley and DeKalb County run very deep. In 1855 my great-great grandfather, August Bastian, purchased 120 acres of farmland southwest of Hinckley. Since then my Bastian family has lived and worked in the area.

I attended first grade in a one-room country school called Fay School that was located on Governor Beveridge Highway. There were 3 students in my class. The school closed the next year with some students attending Waterman School and others coming to Hinckley. Fay was the last country school to operate in DeKalb County. I am a proud alumna of Hinckley-Big Rock High School, Waubensee Community College and Aurora University where I earned a degree in Business Administration.

My parents are Wilbur and Jane Bastian. Dad was the local electrician for many years. Mom is now a resident at the DeKalb Area Retirement Home, that is located within a couple of miles of the house in which she was raised.

I worked in Customer Service and Project Management during my career, but happily retired five years ago. I now have more time to help in my community and my church. In my spare time, I like to travel, cheer on the Chicago Cubs, and learn about our past.



Preparations are being Made

Circle your calendar and plan to attend the Society's annual dinner and auction on **Saturday, April 25**. This is a major fundraiser for the museum operations but also a time to enjoy visiting with friends, buy a few treasures and share good food.

The planning committee is searching for items for the auction: some services, new items but also things you may be tired of having that could be someone else's treasure. Then there are always baked items from some of the best cooks in town.



Are you missing out?

A lot of folks are sharing their history stories on Facebook. Here are a few locations that share Hinckley history:

- Hinckley Illinois Community History and Some Current Affairs
- Hinckley Historical Society
- DeKalb County History Center

Intern Studies Local Businesses

The HHS spring intern will be studying Hinckley businesses over the years and where they have been located. The assignment is the result of many requests from curious residents about the breadth of businesses and services that have been available in Hinckley.

Conducting the research is Erin Cronin, an energetic sophomore at Northern Illinois University majoring in Non-Profit and NGO Studies. The internship is sponsored by the DeKalb County Non-Profit Partnership of the DeKalb County Community Foundation.

Erin, a native of Oswego, has worked the past three summers as a global research assistant for the 50th anniversary publication of Zonta International. Zonta is an international nonprofit focusing on women's rights with their headquarters located in Oakbrook. Erin is a member of the Huskies Marching Band and Pep Band, as well as an ambassador for the NGO program at Northern.

HHS has been fortunate to receive interns over the past three years to help the museum do research, organize its collection and promote the value of museums. In return, members of HHS work with the students to enhance their skills, explain the operations of non-profit organizations and promote a career of service.



Intern Erin Cronin

Anyone with pictures or information about former businesses in Hinckley should contact Erin through the museum or Bob Pritchard, 815-761-4058.

Why Preserve History By Bob Pritchard

The theme of the recent annual meeting of the Sycamore Chamber of Commerce answered a question often raised about why we preserve history. The speakers used the title "Power of the Past--Force for the Future." to emphasize that history—what individuals and businesses have done—is a foundation or stepping stone for future actions and progress.

The program then recognized businesses for outstanding achievements with the implied message -- learn from them and do better. The message reminded me of a relay race in high school track. Each of four runners would make a lap and then pass the baton to the next runner who had started running from a standing position. The accuracy of matching speed with a smooth hand-off before accelerating helped determine the winners. Isn't this like real life?

Power of the Past—Force for the Future

Museums such as the Hinckley Historical Society's collect and preserve artifacts and stories before they are lost. Further, they help interpret and explain our past to build connections, understanding, direction and energy in the future.

The DeKalb County Board endorsed this effort recently by passing an ordinance for townships and county officials to preserve all appropriate records for the enjoyment and use of future generations.

You can join in this effort by sharing your family and business artifacts and stories so others may learn and grow before they are lost and forgotten. Contact the museum today.

How Tanner Chada Made History

When you enter the Hinckley Historical Museum you will see a large green highway sign that used to sit along Route 30 as you entered Hinckley. It commemorates Tanner Chada's 2017 State Championship in the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) Class 1A mile race and second place in the 2-mile race. It was the culmination of a lot of hard training and support.

Tanner has always had a love for sports, from college football, to baseball, basketball and wrestling. As a 4th grader, he was an excited little guy who begged to go to the parade for the H-BR Girl's Basketball State Championships and spent the next year going to all their games. He continued watching high school athletes, following the H-BR boys State Soccer finals with his face painted blue and white. Little did the high school athletes know that they were inspiring him to compete at the state level.

Tanner grew up in Hinckley with his dad and spent several evenings a week and every weekend training to ride motocross. His physical stamina was tested as he jumped from hill to hill, and over time he suffered a broken leg, arm, and fingers. Mentally he went through disappointments, frustrations as well as successes. He qualified for the National Motocross Championship competition in Tennessee while he was in 6th grade.

During the competition, Tanner broke his leg again. Was it time for another sport? During the youth's rehab, his dad took him to an indoor track to run every night after school. He was observed by a national champion runner from Mexico who was training kids in running. He was hired to help Tanner recover.

During the H-BR 7th grade track season coach Scott Bastian urged Tanner to compete in the distance races. Tanner worked out with Jack Bullard, an 8th grader who was the leading runner. When Jake Austin, an H-BR grad and collegiate track national qualifier, came to talk to the track team, Tanner was deeply moved and decided to give up motocross racing for track.

The next year Tanner broke the 5-minute mile and placed 3rd in the Illinois Elementary School Association

state competition. That summer Tanner was accepted into TeamPrep USA, a summer-long running program in Crested Butte, Colorado, directed by nationally renowned running coach, Trent Sanderson.

Tanner was able to train with others who pushed him at altitudes of 8,000 to 11,000 feet. That altitude training along with top caliber coaches and teammates improved his running skills and strengthened his work ethic and dedication. He still returns each summer to the camp as a coach and counselor.

During Tanner's high school years, he attended Aurora Christian School, since H-BR didn't have a cross country team and Tanner wanted to explore his faith more intensely. Tanner returned to H-BR for his senior year. During the Spring state meet he finished second in the 2-mile race and, with just a few hours to recover, ran in the mile race and won. Tanner became Hinckley-Big Rock's only individual state champion in the school's history.

Needless to say he was heavily recruited for college and chose Grand Valley State in Michigan due to their faith-based programs, track coaches and sports history. His team was National Champions in 2018.

Tanner is now in his Junior year at GVSU and has qualified individually at the National level for Division II each year in Cross Country, Indoor Track and Outdoor Track. He thanks his dad, his many coaches and the entire H-BR community for their support, encouragement and interest in his running.



Thank you for supporting the museum and being a member. Together we can preserve the history of our area for future generations. Memberships are \$20 for an individual, \$25 for a family, \$30 for a business or organization, and \$500 for a lifetime membership.



"Preserving the past for the future."

145 East Lincoln Ave., Hinckley, IL

Open Saturdays from 10-3 or by appointment.

HinckleyHistoricalSociety@gmail.com

Facebook: Hinckley Historical Society

Website: Hinckleyhistoricalsociety.com

Volunteers are needed at the museum. Share your talents by contacting Julie 815-739-4721

Hinckley Historical Society

Board Members

Bob Pritchard, President; Jeff Wielert, V.P.

Rob Mason, Secretary; Deb Appleby, Treasurer

Julie Morsch, Curator;

Pat Bastian, Jennifer Klambauer and Kris Sellers, Members

Join us for these Events:

- ⇒ Board meetings the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the Museum
- ⇒ The museum is open every Saturday from 10-3 p.m. or by appointment
- ⇒ Annual Dinner and Auction, April 25 at the Community Building
- ⇒ Give DeKalb County Day, May 7
- ⇒ Hinckley Date meets Zip Celebration, June 5

Hinckley Lions Club Turns 50

A group of Hinckley area businessmen, farmers, and residents in 1970 wanted to do something for their community so they formed a Lions Club with the motto "We Serve."

After 50 years, members still like the Lion's philosophy that when caring people join together, roll up their sleeves and take action to make their community and world better, they produce great results and an incredible feeling of satisfaction for everyone involved.

The club is a go-to source of help for nearly every organization in their area. Hinckley Lions are also part of the largest international service organization that focuses on vision, diabetes, hunger, environment and childhood cancer.



Come, join the Hinckley Lions on their journey of service.