

BE A TIME TRAVELER

The rich history of Hancock County is visible everywhere – in its architecture, its traditions, its institutions and its people. Created in 1828 and named for the Declaration of Independence's first signer John Hancock, the forested pioneer community was enhanced in 1835 when U.S. 40, the "Old National Road" passed through the county's mid-section – carrying wagons westward and livestock to market cities.

Nowhere however, is that history, that heritage, better recalled than in Hancock County's museums. There, the pieces of our past are preserved and shared with visitors and residents alike who yearn to know more about a young America and this community's role in it.

Consider the James Whitcomb Riley Old Home, where the beloved "Hoosier Poet" and creator of such characters as "Little Orphant Annie" and "The Raggedy Man" spent his boyhood years, gaining the experiences that would later, through his works, propel him to the stage

beside the likes of his good friend Mark Twain. The Riley Home and the adjacent Museum provide many artifacts of Riley's life and times and offer a glimpse into the origin of his literary genius.

There's the Old Log Jail, whose nail-spiked wooden cells housed the outlaws of the 1850s through early 1870s and the Chapel in the Park, a restored 19th Century church. Both these museums house substantial collections of early Indiana artifacts from the pioneer days, through the Civil War and into the 20th Century.

Historic Fortville is home to Dolly Mama's expansive antique doll and toy museum and to Dyer Organ Works, housing an impressive collection of elaborate wall-sized calliopes and crank-operated mechanical organs, playing music

from folded card mechanisms.

Sitting on the county line, Shirley is the site for "Dr. Wilson's Office: A Country Doctor Museum," where the world of early rural medicine and its practitioners is well preserved and the Shirley Railroad Museum, recalling the days of the locomotive when steam ruled the rails.

Whether you spend just a few hours or several days touring our museums, you'll be surprised how much there is to see and learn about our heritage and the development of Central Indiana right here in Hancock County – the Heart of the Crossroads.



James Whitcomb Riley Home

Hancock County Visitors Bureau Photos by Dave Scott



Dyer Organ Works



Old Log Jail



Dolly Mama's

Greenfield

James Whitcomb Riley Home
250 W. Main St.
Open April - November. Small Adm Charge
317-462-8539 or 317-477-4340

James Whitcomb Riley Museum
250 W. Main St.
Open April - November. Small Adm Charge
317-462-8539 or 317-477-4340

Old Log Jail Museum
Main and Apple Streets
Open April - October. Small Adm Charge
317-861-5853 or 317-462-7780

The Chapel in the Park
Main and Apple Streets
Open April - October. Small Adm Charge
317-861-5853 or 317-462-7780

Fortville

Dolly Mama's Doll and Toy Museum
By Appointment. Free. Donations Accepted.
317-485-5339

Dyer Organ Works
By Appointment. Free. Donations Accepted.
317-485-5524

Shirley

Shirley Railroad Museum
South Railroad Street
Call for Hours. Free. Donations Accepted
765-738-6000 or 765-738-6561

Dr. Wilson's Office: A Country Doctor Museum
Main and Railroad Streets
Call for Hours. Free. Donations Accepted
765-738-6000 or 765-738-6561

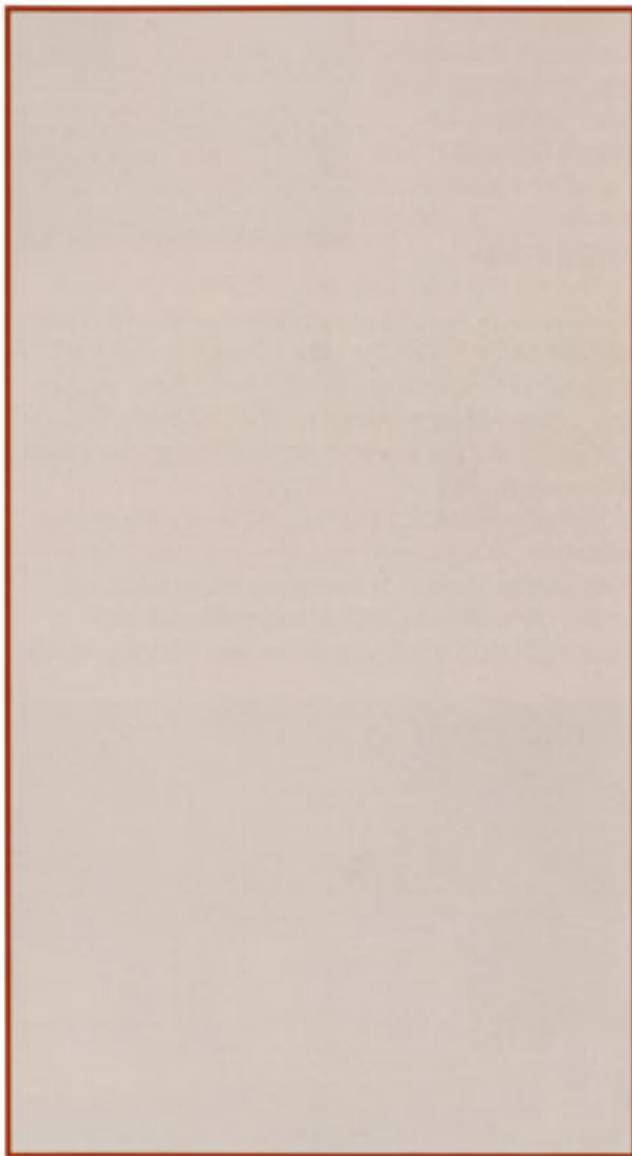


HCVB

hancock county
visitors bureau

The
Heart
of the
Crossroads

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MUSEUMS

Hunting for History



Hancock County
Indiana