

# An introduction to Dr. Hiram Todd

by Dr. James Paul

Since January of 2016, the Kankakee County Historic Preservation Commission has been gathering feedback from residents of each township for a countywide Historic Preservation Plan. At the meetings, a prominent figure in local history shares his life story. (The final meeting will be held Tuesday, May 10 at the Kankakee Public Library. For more information about the HPC, visit <http://planning.k3county.net/histpres.html>.)

In February, Manteno residents met Hiram Todd, via Dr. Paul, Preservation Commission member and Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society secretary.

My name is Dr. Hiram Todd. I was born on Nov. 18, 1795 in Vermont to Thomas and Betty Todd. I died of consumption at my home in Rockville on July 11, 1849 at the age of 54. I did not live to see the creation of Manteno in 1852, but I was aware that an Illinois Central Railroad would soon become a reality. I was acquainted with Francois Bourbonnais, Jr. and his daughter Maw-ten-o who your town would be named after. Maw-ten-o was the granddaughter of Francois Bourbonnais, Sr. and his wife Catish. Catish was Potawatomi and perhaps related to Chief Me-she-ke-ten-o.

In the terms of the 1832 Treaty of Camp Tippecanoe, Catish, her son, Washington and her granddaughter, Maw-ten-o were granted 1,920 acres adjacent to the north bend of the Kankakee River. That land was destined later to become part of the city of Kankakee.

As a teenager I left home and moved to Kingston, Canada where I worked aboard merchant ships on the Great Lakes. I eventually moved to Cincinnati, OH and received my medical degree at Ohio Medical College in 1825. I practiced in Lebanon, Columbus and Franklin, OH before marrying Lydia Church in 1828 and moving to the former Indian trading post of Logansport in north central Indiana. From Franklin to Logansport, Lydia and I traveled 218 miles by horseback picking our way over Indian trails.

In Logansport, I set up practice and ministered to the largely Potawatomi population. The filth and squalor in which they lived made them susceptible to the devastating attacks of smallpox. Unlike other doctors who flatly refused to treat these unfortunates, I encouraged improved sanitation and administered vaccinations against smallpox. The gratitude of the Potawatomi was immediate, and they called me the "White Medicine Man". My wife and I learned to speak Potawatomi.

In 1832, I became aware of the business opportunities for profit in the Indian reservation lands allotted to several tribes under the Treaty of Camp Tippecanoe. I decided to scout the reservations in Illinois, and travelled over 100 miles to the Kankakee River in Illinois. I always had a good horse and necessities for survival in my saddle bags. Wherever I went though, the Potawatomi welcomed me with open arms. My reputation had preceded me.

I was particularly captivated by the region where Rock Creek empties into the Kankakee. As the guest of Chief Shau-wa-na-see and his Potawatomi villages at Rock Creek and Little Rock Creek, I fully explored the area. The chief had five sections or 3,200 acres in his treaty allotted reservation. On March 22, 1833, I contracted with the chief to purchase those five sections for \$4,000.

Since I had been elected associate judge of Cass County, IN, for seven years, I could not move my family from Logansport to the Kankakee River area until 1835. I built a log cabin near what would later be called Aroma Park. At that time, I and Dr. Henry Russell of Bourbonnais Grove were the only practicing physicians in the area. After brief interludes in Lafayette and Logansport, I moved my family to Rock Village in 1840 after my purchase of Chief Shau-wa-na-see's reservation was approved by the president Martin Van Buren.

By 1845, of my aggregate 8,500 acre holdings, Rock Creek held my fancy. In that year, I built a nice house out of pine lumber on the Kankakee River near Rock Creek. My home library of scientific works was the first on the river. Until my premature death, I continued to work tirelessly in various business ventures which would convert the wilderness into a modern civilization. At the same time, I suffered remorse for my Potawatomi friends who were compelled to relocate west of the Mississippi. I know that when Chief Shau-wa-na-see's band left their beloved villages, the scene was heart rending. The squaws cried and the braves and old men shed their tears as they turned to view for the last time their beloved country, its beauty, a magnificent grove of timber with an abundance of game, herds of buffalo and elk as well as the fallow deer, and the clear streams abounding in fish.

*The Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society is dedicated to preserving and promoting local history. Monthly meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month March through December.*

*Museum hours are 1 to 4 p.m. on the first and third Sundays of each month,*

*March through December or by appointment.*

*Visit [bourbonnaishistory.org](http://bourbonnaishistory.org) on Facebook at [facebook.com/bourbonnaisgrove](https://www.facebook.com/bourbonnaisgrove) or call 1-815-933-6452.*

## Lip Sync winners



Photo courtesy of KC-CASA

The Kankakee Valley Park District RecCenter hosted the Lip Sync Battle fundraiser to benefit the Kankakee County Center Against Sexual Assault (KC-CASA) and Iroquois Sexual Assault Services (ISAS) on Friday, April 1, 2016. KC-CASA and ISAS thanked all those that attended and supported the event and the individuals and businesses that sponsored the fundraiser. Participants included The Groovy Girls, Sue Rosendahl and Kathleen Kraft; Ashley and The Polka Dots, Ashley Paluzzi, Jan Glazar, Annie Glazar, Jaclyn Dugan-Roof, Meggin Wilson and Jake Lee; KVTA Orphanettes, Joel Knapper, Rhonda Stenzinger, Robin Tober-Betourne, Cindi Hannay, Paula Sutter, Debbi Emling, Gina O'Connor, Morgan O'Connor, Patricia Ferris, Courtney Casteel and Shannon Woodruff; The Ramblers, Zachary Scott, Maddi Graefen and Jacob Kyrouac; and the Zonta Club of Kankakee, Cheryl Trudeau, Jackie Fink, Debbie Caise and Rhonda Thomas. This year's Lip Sync Battle winners were Ashley and the Polka Dots (l. to r.) Dugan-Roof, Wilson, Lee, Paluzzi and Jan and Annie Glazar. Area supporters and businesses that made the event a hit included Tanners Collision Center, Dr. and Mrs. Meisenbach, Watseka Elks Lodge #1791, Brandt Concrete Inc., Jim Brosseau Custom Roofing, Kankakee police department, Show To Go Video/California Tanning, Simms Engineering, LTD, Piggush Simoneau, Inc., Holohan Heating & Sheetmetal, McCullough Implement Co., Rodney E. Yergler DDS PC, First Trust and Savings Bank, Aundrea Lollar, Modern Woodmen Fraternal Financial, Kankakee County Convention and Visitors Bureau, village of Herscher, attorney Ed Glazar, Thrivent Financial, GFWC IL Cullom Woman's Club, Presence St. Mary's Hospital, the Daily Journal, Bourbonnais Township Park District, Kankakee Valley Park District, Ravenspring Creative and Milner Broadcasting. KC-CASA/ISAS's mission is to improve the quality of services to sexual assault and abuse victims to assist in their recovery and to work toward the elimination of sexual assault and abuse in Kankakee and Iroquois counties. For more information, call 1-815-932-7273 or visit [www.kc-casa.org](http://www.kc-casa.org). KC-CASA's 24-hour hotline is 1-815-932-3322. ISAS's 24-hour hotline is 1-815-432-0420.

## Students complete woodworking projects



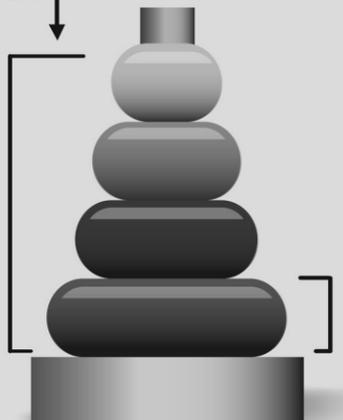
Photos courtesy of Faith Church

During the spring semester, these students finished their wood-working projects. Holding their rabbits are (above, l. to r.) Aaron Herz, Grant Park; Molly Huizenga, Bonfield; and Nate Brouwers, Manteno; and (below) Lauren Uftring, Kankakee; Ian Herz, Grant Park; and Chloe Whalen, Kankakee.



CHOOSE CAR SEAT: BY AGE & SIZE 

THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO THINK THEY HAVE THEIR CHILD IN THE RIGHT SEAT.



THE ONES WHO ACTUALLY DO.

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VISIT [SAFERCAR.GOV/THERIGHTSEAT](http://SAFERCAR.GOV/THERIGHTSEAT)