

# Herbert Sinclair Young (1929-2013)

By Jerry Long  
c.2026



Herbert Sinclair Young



## **Young Family of Hancock County, KY, Jerry Long** **(Owensboro, KY: Kustom Kwik Print, 2022, p.178:**

Herbert Sinclair Young ('Tobe', 2 April 1929 – 2 February 2013) son of Hal Young & Myrtle Elizabeth Board, he was a member of the Hancock County school system for 32 years, he was a teacher, guidance counselor and served as principal of the Hancock County High School 1975-1985 and was a student of family history.



## **Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, Thursday, 7 February 2013, p.3:**

### Herbert Sinclair "Tobe" Young

Herbert Sinclair "Tobe" Young, 83, of Hawesville, passed away Saturday, February 2, 2013 at Heartland Villa Care & Rehabilitation Center. He was born April 2, 1929 to the late Hal and

Myrtle Board Young. He was a member of Hawesville Baptist Church and a veteran of the United States Air Force serving in the Korean War.

He graduated from Beechmont High School in 1947, from Kentucky Wesleyan University with a BA Degree in 1958 and from Western Kentucky University with MA Degree in 1963. Tobe was employed by the Hancock County Board of Education where he served as a teacher, bus driver, guidance counselor and principal.

His interests included travel, genealogy, playing basketball with special friends and playing pool at the senior center. He was a member of the Hancock County Historical Society since its beginning in 1973 and volunteered many hours at the museum. He served on the Selective Service Board for a number of years and was a Kentucky Colonel.

Tobe was scorekeeper for Hornet basketball for many years, an avid Kentucky basketball fan, a lifelong fan of the Detroit Tigers and the Boston/Milwau-kee /Atlanta Braves baseball teams.

He was preceded in death by a sister, Edna Gabbert and four brothers, Melvin, Emerson, Thurman and Leroy Young.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Patsy Robbins Young, a son, Robin Dale Young (Helen) of Owensboro and a grandson, Christopher Andrew Young of Owensboro; two sisters, Lula Grace Young of Hawesville and Mary Edith Newton (Carlos) of Lewisport and many beloved nieces and nephews.

Funeral Services were held Tuesday, February 5, 2013 at Hawesville Baptist Church with burial in Serenity Hills. Memorial contributions can be made to the charity of your choice. Messages of condolence may be left for Tobe's family at [www.gibsonandsonfh.com](http://www.gibsonandsonfh.com).



**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 22 August 1965, p.5C:**

**Western Kentucky News Roundup**

**HANCOCK COUNTY**

About 1,400 students will enroll in the county's public and parochial schools tomorrow as the 1965-66 school year gets under way. Some 200 of them will be in the Catholic school. New names in old positions in the public school system are Clifton Banks Jr., principal of county high; William H. Buck, principal of Hawesville grade school; Bertram Jackson, director of pupil personnel, and Herbert S. Young, guidance counselor.



**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Friday, 11 April 1975, p.2A:**

**Young named principal  
of Hancock County High**

HAWESVILLE, Ky. - Herbert S. Young was appointed principal of Hancock County High by the school board here last night.

Young, a guidance counselor, replaces Clifton Banks, who will assume school superintendent duties July 1.

The board also went on record as opposing collective bargaining for teachers. At the same time, it favored putting the issue "before the people" in the form of a statewide referendum.

The board's action is an endorsement of the official position of the Kentucky State School Board Association.

The board accepted a low bid of \$58,600 by Hagan and Hagan of Owensboro for the construction of a high school track.

School Superintendent Bill Francis reported a significant decrease in the high school dropout rate over the past three years.

The 2 per cent dropout rate in 1975, as opposed to the 13 per cent rate in 1972 can be attributed to the "experimental schools program," according to Francis.

The board also extended the school calendar four days to June 5 to make up for days lost because of snow.



**Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, Thursday, 13 March 1980:**



**PUT BRAKES ON CELEBRATION**—Hancock County High School Principal Herbert Young carries ladder from the basketball court. Players stand in confused disbelief, as they were, for the second time, prevented from cutting down the nets after their championship victory over

Cloverport. The principal's action sparked controversy, which continues this week.



**Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, Thursday, 16 May 1985:**

**Young resigns as  
high school principal**

On Thursday night, the Hancock County Board of Education will move to accept the resignation of Hancock County High School Principal H. S. (Tobe) Young. Young has held the chief administrative position at the high school since 1975.

"I had always intended to retire in 1986, but I decided rather recently to move it up a year," Mr. Young remarked Wednesday morning. "I realized if I am going to try something else the time to try it is now. I've been wanting to try another field, but my plans are vague at the present time . . . nothing concrete that I can talk about now."

Young, who has served more than 30 years in education and as an Air Force air traffic controller, joked that he intends to enter a less stressful field, "such as lion-tamer."

The Clarion reporter expressed surprise at seeing the notice of resignation on the agenda for the next board meeting. Mr. Young remarked that he is still not used to the idea of being out of work and that it "is a little scary."

Herbert Young was born in Lewisport, but has been a Hawesville resident since 1935. He was a graduate of the Beechmont High School in 1947. He continued on to Kentucky Wesleyan College in Owensboro, where he graduated in 1958 with a major in business administration and a minor in English. He was married to Patsy Robbins in 1953, during his four-year stint in the U.S. Air Force. Mrs. Young is employed by J&L Printers in Hawesville. She intends to remain on the job for the time being.

Mr. and Mrs. Young are the parents of a son, Robin, who resides in Owensboro, and is employed by the Kentucky Cabinet for Human Resources.

Mr. Young's first teaching position was in the Hawesville High School in 1958. He was an instructor of English, social studies and science. He was later the guidance counselor at Hancock County High School from 1964 to 1974.

The board will take action to replace the retiring principal right away, in order to start the 1985-86 school term with a new principal. The vacancy could be posted as early as Friday of this week. In other action Thursday, the board will consider the school calendar for 1985-86, and accept the bid to remove asbestos from the middle school.

Approval of the contract for the new superintendent, Vickie Basham, is on the agenda, as well as a discussion of the superintendent's evaluation.

In all, the board members have 23 items for deliberation, which will begin at 5 p.m. in the central office conference room.



Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, Thursday, 11 September 1986:

**HERBERT "TOBE" YOUNG**  
*Joins Realty Firm*

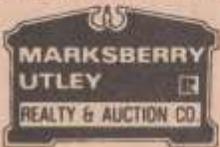
MARKSBERRY and UTLEY Realty & Auction Co., of Owensboro proudly welcomes Herb "Tobe" Young as a member of its real estate sales team. A native of Hancock County, Herb is a retired Educator having served as teacher, Counselor and Principal in the Hancock County School system.

He served 4 years in the USAF and is a graduate of KY Wesleyan College. Herb also holds a Master's Degree from WKU. He now serves on Selective Service Board #5 which includes Hancock, Daviess, Ohio, and McLean Counties.



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Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, Thursday, 16 February 1995:

Young, Gaynor inducted into Hall of Fame



Herbert S. (Tobe) Young receives the Hall of Fame plaque from Bob Kerrick. Hancock County High School Principal.

Membership in the Hancock County High School Academic/Athletic Hall of Fame was increased by two Tuesday, February 14. The induction ceremony was conducted at halftime during the Hancock County Hornets versus Muhlenberg South boys varsity basketball game. Plaques honoring Herbert S. "Tobe" Young and Larry Sherwood Gaynor will be hung in the main hallway of the school, where they may be viewed by the public.

### **Herbert Young**

The first presentation was made to Mr. Young, who has devoted his adult life to educating the students of Hancock County. He has officially retired but still serves as a substitute teacher on occasion.

Herbert Young is a graduate of Beechmont High School in Hawesville with the Class of 1947. After graduation he enlisted in the United States Air Force and served from 1951 until 1955 as an air traffic controller at Otis Air Force Base and K-46 in South Korea.

Upon his release from the Air Force, Young attended Kentucky Wesleyan College in Owensboro, majoring in business administration and minoring in English. He began his teaching career in the Hancock County School System in 1958, while simultaneously working on his Master's degree in guidance and his Rank I certification. In 1965 he became the guidance counselor at the new Hancock County High School, which is now Hancock County Middle School. He served in that capacity until 1975, when he became principal of the present Hancock County High School. He retired in 1985.

Since retirement, Tobe has pursued a variety of interests, including the study of genealogy, the reading of history, travelling, and coin collecting.

Mr. Young has been married for the past 32 years to the former Patsy Robbins. They have one son, Robin D. Young, and one grandson, Christopher A. Young.



### **Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, Thursday, 11 April 1996:**

**Patsy Young honored  
as Historian of the Year**

By Lydia Carrico

Keeping the community's rich history alive is a vital part of the Hancock County Historical Society and is made possible only through the dedication and efforts of its members. Each year, the society honors an individual or organization whose contributions show a continual commitment to preserving the history of the county. This year the award goes to Patsy Young.

Mary Emmick, president of the Historical Society, will present the award to Young during the fifteenth annual Historian of the Year Dinner on April 15, 7:00 p.m., at the Hancock County High School. Featured speaker for the event will be Dr. Richard Troutman, head of the History Department at Western Kentucky University.

Young, of Hawesville, has been a charter member of the Historical Society since its founding in 1974. She has been instrumental in saving the county's archives, establishing the

Hancock County Museum, and publishing books on Hancock County's history. She now serves as treasurer for both the Historical Society and the museum. "She has been the glue that has held the historical preservation in the county together," said board member Jack Foster.

Young's name will be added to the well deserving list of past honorees including James H. Fallin – first to receive the award, – Rose Pell Henderson, Horace Temple, Jack and Mildred Foster, and last year's recipients Clifton and Ellen Banks.

Foster said the first awards dinner was held at The Coffee Break Deli in 1974 with 37 people in attendance. Participation in the event grew so well throughout the years, the banquet was then moved to the Riverview Restaurant and then to its present location, the Hancock County High School. He expects 200 people to attend this year's ceremony.

Tickets for the event are \$7 and the dinner is being catered by Larry's Bestway. Reservations will be accepted until Friday, April 12. For more information or to make reservations call Jack Foster at 295-6637; Steve Harmon at 295-3143; or Richard Waitman at 295-3653.

#### Winners of essay contest to receive awards

The winners of the Hancock County High School's Young Historian Club annual essay contest will receive awards during the April 12 ceremony as well.

The purpose of the club is to emphasize the importance of local history and is jointly sponsored by the Historical Society and the high school.

Out of 20 entries, the top six will receive cash awards presented to the students by faculty advisor Eddie Price. One first place \$35 award will be given to Trent Rosenblatt, one \$20 second place to Amanda Ray, one \$15 third place to Melanie Basham, and three \$10 honorable mentions to Derek Harris, Vanessa Jones, and Michael Knight.



### **Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, Thursday, 18 April 1996:**



Hancock County's 1996 "Historian of the Year", Patsy Young, second from left, receives the plaque of recognition from Historical Society President Mary Emmick, left. Mrs. Young is given support by her husband, Herbert S. Young, and his three sisters: Edna Gabbert, Lula Young and Mary Edith Newton. The

annual event was held at Hancock County High School Monday evening. —Clarion Photo D.W.



**Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, 28 October 1999, “So It’s Been Told:  
Footnotes To Hancock County History” column by Jack Foster:**

**Poor Farm**

Several months ago Herbert Young, Hawesville, did some research on the history of the Hancock County Poor Farm. Here is a rental agreement from 1943 which Mr. Young shares:

“Whereas the Fiscal Court of Hancock County Lease the "Poor Farm" to me, Hal Young for a two year period beginning at or on January 1, 1944 and ending on or before December 31, 1945 for the sum of two hundred dollars per year payable on or before December 31, of each year subject to the following conditions, to wit:

(1) Hal Young is to take charge and control of all people sent to the home by the County Judge, to care for them, feed them and nurse them and for adults committed to this home he is to receive the sum of three dollars per week and for inmates under the age of six years of age he is to receive three dollars and fifty cents per week and any work done by inmates for Hal Young shall be voluntary or upon the permission of the County Judge. The food furnished inmates shall be good, clean wholesome food and at least 3 meals on each day. He is further to furnish all fires for inmates and wash and laundry for them.

(2) Hal Young is to build all necessary fencing and build all necessary building but the Fiscal Court is to furnish the material for fencing or buildings, clothing for the inmates and all bedding, beds and rooms for the inmates.

(3) Hal Young further agrees to set apart one room in the building in an emergency for female inmates.

Therefore, to insure the said Hal Young's performance of the above condition to be kept, he, as principal, and Homer Young as surety binds themselves to the Fiscal Court in the amount of \$1,000.00 to void however, if the said Hal Young keeps his agreement. In witness hereof each has placed his name this day of October, 1943.”

It appears to be signed by Hal and Homer Young and approved by the then county judge George Newman.



**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 9 July 2000, p.3C:**

**Korean War vets recall cold, dangerous times**

By Steve Vied, Messenger-Inquirer

.... Herbert Young, an Air Force veteran who lives in Hawesville, spent 11 months in Korea beginning in the middle of 1951. His job was in air traffic control, helping F-51s take off and land on bombing and strafing runs.

"Sometimes we would have 50 in the air at one time," Young said.

"It wasn't a picnic, but we had nice tents," Young said. "We even had lumber, and we put floors in them, and we slept in a bunk in sleeping bags. The food wasn't always good, but we ate. The meat was mostly fresh, but the mashed potatoes were some other substance. We had powdered milk with our cereal for breakfast."

Young was reminded often of the serious nature of the fighting. His base commander, a pilot, was shot down and killed over North Korea, and another pilot he saw frequently also died.

"We had crashes at the base on take-off," he said. "We had accidents."



**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Friday, 19 April 2002, p.2A:**



Gov. Paul Patton looks at photographs on display at the Hancock County Museum while being given a tour of the facility Thursday by museum treasurer Patsy Young.



**Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, Thursday, 6 November 2003:**



## Youngs to celebrate 50th anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert S. Young of Hawesville are celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary at a reception hosted by their son, his wife and their son, from 3 to 5 p.m. on Saturday, November 15th at Hawesville Baptist Church Fellowship Hall.

Young and Patsy Lou Robbins were married November 14th, 1953 at the Hawesville Baptist Pastorium with the late Rev. C.L. Hardcastle officiating. Attending the couple were Lula G. Young, his sister and William A. Robbins, her brother.

Young is retired from the Hancock County Public Schools where he served as teacher, guidance counselor and principal. Mrs. Young worked at Bruner Printing. They have, one son, Robin Dale Young of Owensboro, and one grandson.

All family and friends are invited to attend. Your presence will be your gift to them.



### **Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, Thursday, 8 July 2004:**



Theresa Hall, RN, (right), presents a gift basket compliments of Dr. Vora and the Hancock Clinic, to the winners of the GET MOVING KENTUCKY program conducted by the Hancock County Extension Service. Winners of the team division were L.W. Long, Jean Keown, Patsy Young, and Herbert Young.



**Hancock County, Kentucky A Pictorial History**  
**(Hudson, KY: Tawana Publishing Company, 2004) pp.45 & 225:**



Hal Young Family. Front row: Herbert, Hal, Myrtle, Mary. Back row: Melvin, Emerson, Thurman, Edna, Milton and Lula.



Independent Basketball Team in 1948: Back row left to right: Charley Welborn, Alfred Duncan, Henson White, Bill Matthews. Front row: Jay Keown, Herbert Young, Bill Lamar, Sam Matthews, coach.



**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Monday, 11 April 2005, pp.1B & 3B:**

## Our People: Hancock County



Patsy Young, 71, of Hawesville sits Wednesday on the steps leading up to a portion of the Hawesville Elementary School building that used to be part of Hawesville High School where Young graduated from in 1951. Young has been the driving force behind an all-class reunion of Beechmont-Hawesville High School graduates on May 14. Nearly 450 alumni and guests have made reservations.



By Renee Beasley Jones, Messenger-Inquirer

When it comes to Beechmont-Hawesville High School, Patsy Young is a walking encyclopedia. The 1951 grad knows the history of the school inside and out. And she may know more about all its graduating classes than anyone.

Last year, Young spearheaded an all-class reunion set for May 14. In all, nearly 450 alumni and guests have made reservations. That's a number to be proud of, Young said.

The former high school, perched on a hilltop overlooking Hawesville, is now an elementary school. Its doors will close this year, and students will attend the new North Hancock County Elementary this fall. It seemed the perfect time to get all the former high school's alumni together, Young said. Besides, she was tired of waiting.

Lewisport folks enjoyed an all-class reunion 21 years ago. All this time, Young and her husband, Herbert, yearned for a similar event for the Beechmont-Hawesville Golden Eagles, but they hoped someone else would volunteer to lead the mammoth project.

No such luck.

Now, the reunion all but consumes Young's life. "There's hardly an evening that goes by that I'm not sitting in front of the TV with an annual trying to identify people," she said.

Young couldn't walk the halls of the school recently without someone stopping her to talk about old school photos for the reunion.

She shared reunion info Wednesday with visitors at the school while she gave a brief tour of the aging building. She didn't carry a notebook, but rattled off everything straight out of her head.

Beechmont-Hawesville High School formed in 1913 and graduated seniors through 1961. The all-class reunion committee has received some type of photo from every class except 1916, 1918, 1919, 1921 and 1922. (She pops off those years without hesitation.)

Every man who graduated in the class of 1943 is now dead, Young said. "

One person from 1929 will attend. Three from 1930. Two from 1934. One from 1935, and two from 1936," she said of reservations made to date.

The school had a girls basketball team as early as 1923.

And Young knows of two families with three generations of graduates who will attend the reunion.

"This is so much fun," she said.

It all makes sense. Young loves Hawesville and Hancock County history. She lives in a house across the street from her birthplace.

She's been involved with the Hancock County Historical Society for years. She and Herbert Young have staffed the Hancock County Museum one Sunday a month for nearly 18 years.

"She's a leader in the finest of terms," said Jim Inman, who works alongside Young on the all-class reunion.

In the early 1980s, he worked on a single class reunion. Getting in touch with people from one small class proved difficult, Inman said. "Here she is trying to get everyone together after 70 years."

Inman has enjoyed the project, thanks to Young.

"She's done so much of the hard work in the background that when we get the committees together, it's enjoyable," he said.

Goldie Mickel of Owensboro will attend the all-class reunion. "I expect I'll be the oldest one there," she said.

The 95-year-old, who played on the girls' basketball team, graduated in 1929. Her graduating class had 13 students. As far as Mickel knows, she's the only survivor. Two of her former classmates died earlier this year.

She had pictures of her senior class to offer Young for use at the all-class reunion.

Mickel is happy someone finally took on the task of planning the event. It's been a long time coming, she said.

On May 14, registration begins at 8 a.m. Classes will be introduced at 9 a.m. Alumni will visit, eat lunch and take class pictures from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event should conclude about 3 p.m., Young said.

Everyone pitched in to make this happen, Young said. She and the rest of the community are eager for the event to take place. "It has been suggested that we continue this," Young said.

### **Patsy Young**

**Age: 71**

**Family:** Husband, Herbert (1947 Hawesville High School grad); son, Robin Young; grandson, Christopher Young of Owensboro

**Hobby:** Hancock County Historical Society and planning the Beechmont-Hawesville High School all-class reunion

**Quote:** "When we grew up, a lot of people thought nothing happened in Hancock County. As we have learned, there were a lot of interesting things that happened here. ... We were making history, too."



**Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, Thursday, 1 September 2005, p.10:**



Members of the Beechmont/Hawesville Reunion Committee presented a check for \$1,000 and a framed photograph of the Hawesville Elementary to North Hancock Principal Martha Warren and Superintendent Mike Gray. The money was donated to the North Hancock Library, along with several copies of the reunion book. Pictured from left are Thelma Robertson, North Hancock Librarian Tiffany Tindle, Marcella Gaynor, Gerald Glover, Warren, Micky Newton, Lula Young, Jim Inman, Patsy Young, Doris Taylor, Herbert Young, Gray, Dorothy Blinzinger and Anita Robertson.



**Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, Thursday, 1 September 2005, p.9:**



A few of the Hal Young family and friends having fun with an old buggy. The picture was taken on a farm on River Road below Hawesville. Pictured from left: Nancy Young (cousin), Herbert Young, Ora Tongate (friend), Mary Edith Young Newton. In the buggy: Sadie Young and two of her children, Melva Young Birkhead and Brooks Young. The picture was taken by Lula Young in the 1920s.



**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Friday, 7 March 2008, p.1C:**



Fern Terra residents Jack Foster, right, and Willard Tucker, left, discuss the old Hawesville checkers club as Hawesville resident Herbert "Tobe" Young listens inside the Hancock County Museum on Monday during a field trip. Foster, a Texas native who spent most of his life living and working in the Chicago area, eventually married Millie Emmick of Lewisport and upon retirement, moved to Hancock County, where he was active in helping create the museum.



**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Wednesday, 2 July 2008, p.1D:**



In keeping with the Kentucky Wesleyan College tradition, Herbert S. Young of Hawesville, far left, and Yvonne D. Taylor of Lewisport, third from right, recently received their 50-year medallions. Young and Taylor were members of the KWC Class of 1958 and are pictured with the class at a recent reunion. Three other Hancock County graduates, George Carter, the late Rev. Wallace Morris and Randy Shultz, were also members of the class. Young, Morris and Shultz were all members of the 1947 class at Hawesville High School. Two ministers from the 1958. KWC class, the late Rev. Dale Dixon and the late Rev. Dan Hughes, served in Hancock County.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Wednesday, 17 October 2012, p.3D:

Hancock County



Hancock County retired teachers, from left, Herbert Young, Linda Tongate, Mary Buck and Carol Thompson, joined Eddie Price, author and retired Hancock County teacher, at his book signing Sept. 23 at the Hancock County Museum in Hawesville. It is Price's second published book.



**Hancock County, Kentucky Pictorial History 1829-2014**  
(Morley, MO: Acclaim Press, 2014) p.192

**IN MEMORY OF HERBERT SINCLAIR “TOBE” YOUNG**

*April 2, 1969 – February 2, 2013*  
*for our*

*60th Wedding Anniversary*

In the rising of the sun and its going down,  
I remember you.  
In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter,  
I remember you.  
In the opening of buds and in the rebirth of spring,  
I remember you.  
In the blueness of the sky and in the warmth of summer,  
I remember you.  
In the rustling of leaves and in the beauty of autumn,  
I remember you.  
When I am weary and in the need of strength,  
I remember you.

When I am lost and my heart aches,  
I remember you.  
When I have joys I yearn to share,  
I remember you.  
So long as I live, you too shall live,  
For you are apart of me  
I remember you.



Herbert and Patsy Young on the Fair Princess, 1988.

Herbert joined the United States Air Force in 1951. He was trained as a Control Tower Operator and sent to Korea for a year during the Korean War. After returning home, Herb was stationed at Otis Air Force Base, Falmouth, MA. He married Patsy Lou Robbins on November 14, 1953 and they made their home on Cape Code. Their son, Robin Dale, was born there.

In 1955 Herb was discharged from service and enrolled in Kentucky Wesleyan College. He graduated in three years and started teaching at Hawesville in 1958. After serving as teacher, bus driver, guidance counselor for ten years, and principal for ten years at H.C.H.S., he retired in 1985. He was a member of Hawesville Baptist Church. His hobbies were genealogy; sports and travel.

Herbert was the son of Hal and Myrtle Elizabeth Board Young. Patsy is the daughter of John Henry and Mary Catherine Duncan Robbins.



**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Monday, 28 February 2022:**

Preserving History:

Hancock County Museum looking at April reopening after COVID closure

By Nathan Havenner, Messenger-Inquirer

With a red caboose that once rode the tracks for the Louisville and Nashville Railroad parked next to it, it would be hard to miss the Hancock County Museum in Hawesville.

Housed in a historic train depot built by the L&N Railroad in 1902, the museum tells the history of not only Hawesville, but of the surrounding towns and communities.

Patsy Young, a charter member of the Hancock County Historical Society, said the society was established in 1973, with a goal of having a permanent home to display artifacts and tell the history of Hancock County.

In 1988, the goal was accomplished, and the Hancock County Museum opened its doors to visitors.

"I was born in the city limits of Hawesville, and except for 14 months when I married and my husband was stationed on Cape Cod, other than that, I have lived right in the city limits of Hawesville all these 88 years," said Young, as she pointed out highlights of the museum's collection.

Young points to a framed photograph dating to the mid-1800s and begins telling a story connecting Abraham Lincoln to Hancock County.

"President Abraham Lincoln was born in Kentucky, and they moved over into Indiana, and so he was on the river, and he took a gentlemen from that side of the river into the middle of the river to get on a large boat," Young said. "There were brothers that had a contract to transport people from that side of the river across to Hancock County, and they said Lincoln was infringing on their contract, so they sued him."

The future 16th president of the United States successfully defended himself in court and was acquitted of any wrongdoing.

"They say this is where Lincoln started his interest in law," Young said.

One permanent exhibit at the museum is a display featuring photographs of all 40 one-room school houses that once provided a roof overhead for countless school children throughout the county.

"Our superintendent, as they closed each one of these schools, they took a picture, and we have this book, and it has all the information about where the property came from," Young said. "We were really thankful to have the pictures."

Another eye-catching museum display is a recreation of the Hancock County Courthouse, with original furnishings from the courthouse built between 1867 and 1869.

Young points to the large, ornately-carved judge-executive's chair and points to a spot on each arm rest where the wood is completely worn down from decades of use.

"There are a lot of stories about Hancock County," Young said. "Hancock County had what they called cannel coal."

Because cannel coal was reportedly cleaner-burning than other coals, according to legend, a load of coal was shipped to Queen Victoria in England.

While the Hancock County Museum has been closed to the public throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the museum is typically open 2-4 p.m. during the last Sunday of the month from April through October. A tentative opening date for the 2022 season is Sunday, April 24.

Young said the historical society and museum are in need of volunteers from the community.

"We are low on volunteers," she said. "Right now, we don't have a chairman of the museum board."

For more information about the Hancock County Museum or to join the Hancock County Historical Society, call Patsy Young at 270-927-8721.

