

1903 MILITARY MANEUVERS WAR GAMES HELD AT LOCAL 'THEATRE OF WAR'

By Matthew D. Rector, HCHS Member

In late September and early October 1903 and extraordinary event took place at West Point, Kentucky and the surrounding area. United States military organizations came to the area for camp, instruction and scripted exercises. Large scale military exercises at Fort Riley, Kansas proved successful the previous year and the positive outcome paved the way for additional combined military maneuvers at West Point.

Army regulars from the Department of the Lakes and National Guard troops from Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, Ohio, Michigan, and Wisconsin numbered 13,000 strong and pitched their tent city in West Point. Not since the Civil War had so many soldiers been gathered at that Ohio River village. They named their temporary home, Camp Young. It was named after the Army's first Chief of Staff, Samuel Baldwin Marks Young.ⁱ

Young was a Civil War Union veteran from Pennsylvania who had risen through the ranks from private to that of brigadier general by the age of 25. Decades later, during World War II, a camp in California that was utilized for the training of armored vehicles would also be named for him.

Overseeing Camp Young at West Point and the maneuvers was Major General John C. Bates, another Union veteran of the Civil War. In addition to mock battles, soldiers were instructed on other aspects of military life. Military representatives from Great Britain and Russia came to observe.ⁱⁱ It was believed that President Theodore Roosevelt might visit the camp, however this never transpired.ⁱⁱⁱ

Soldiers present for the war games were divided into two opposing forces. A fictional conflict was carefully scripted for mock battles that pitted the Blue Army, stationed on the Ohio River at Louisville, against the Brown Army, based along the Tennessee River in Nashville, Tennessee. The scenario found the



Photo Courtesy of Fort Knox Military Archives

Some of Uncle Sam's fighting machinery as seen at West Point, KY, Oct. 9th, 1903.

Brown Army near Louisville, where they had arrived after a successful campaign. The Blue Army was recently re-enforced and had gone on the offensive. Scenarios were developed to focus on "advance-guard and rear guard problems, the attack and defense of outposts, the contact of opposing forces, and the attack and defense of a fortified position."^{iv}

"The theatre of war" occupied a large area and included ground around West Point, Garnettsville, Muldraugh, and Stithton. Retired U.S. Army General Joseph Wheeler, also a former Confederate general in the Civil War, actively observed and noted that portions of the ground resembled that of Shiloh, Tennessee.^v

Battles were carried out under the supervision of umpires. The chief umpire of the event was Colonel Arthur L. Wagner, a veteran of numerous campaigns against American Indians. In his report of the



Top: Central telegraph station at the Military Camp.
Right: Uncle Sam's hungry warriors seen formed in a line at mess.

Photos Courtesy of Muller and Oct. 22, 1903 *Leslie's Weekly*.



maneuvers, he complained about the actions of some soldiers who took part. "When constructively captured by the enemy, instead of retiring from the field as prisoners, they made derisive gestures at their captors and ran away."^{vi}

It was noted that troops wearing blue uniforms were easy targets, while those in khaki easily blended in with the landscape. A report about the event stressed that the "adoption of this new service uniform is an important advancement to the army, and will greatly reduce casualties in actual warfare."^{vii}

The event regularly made the national news and afterwards, images of the event proved to be in demand. The popular magazine *Leslie's Weekly* published full page photo-spreads of camp life in at least two issues and the Whiting View Company sold a selection of images in the form of stereographic cards for those who wanted to see the troops in 3D. For soldiers that actually participated, souvenir medals were created for their units.

The maneuvers provided a valuable experience to the participants by providing the scale and environment of actual conditions that could exist during a real conflict. It also provided challenges due to terrain and environmental conditions. In addition, it supported the notion that more active training was essential for national and state guards which were not accustomed to regular military life. However, those

organizations undoubtedly left the event with a better understanding of camp life and battle situations.

Additional maneuvers were held elsewhere in the coming years, each learning from the previous events. The total cost of the maneuvers at West Point, which included transportation of troops, commissary, rental of grounds, and damages to property were estimated at \$250,000.^{viii} Impressed with the area, Army officials discussed the potential of establishing a permanent military post at West Point. However, it would be another fifteen years before they returned with the establishment of Camp Knox for the purpose of Field Artillery training. In September 1918 it was decided to move the camp in West Point to the cantonment at Stithton. This location would evolve into present-day Fort Knox.

i *Leslie's Weekly*, October 29, 1903 page

ii *The Bourbon News*, [Paris, Kentucky] September 29, 1903.

iii *The New York Times*, [New York, New York] September 6, 1903.

iv Colonel Arthur L. Wagner, "Combined Maneuvers of the Regular Army and Organized Militia," *Journal of the Military Service Institute of the United States*, vol. 36, (Governor's Island: Military Service Institution, 1905), 66.

v Colonel Walter Fieldhouse, *Fall Maneuvers West Point, Kentucky 1903* (Springfield: Phillips Bros., State Printers, 1904), 13.

v The *New York Times*, [New York, New York] February 7, 1904.

vii Fieldhouse, 32.

viii Fieldhouse, 51.

viii Fieldhouse, 14.

up against a brick wall...

VINTAGE MURALS

looking back at local advertising campaigns



By Susan Evans McCrobie, HCHS Member

I have recently been digging through photos of Elizabethtown's building facades from 1972. Many of the buildings that faced the Dixie with longer side walls adjacent to allies or side streets boasted advertising on their rough brick surfaces, back before billboards rented disposable message space by the month.

It took me by surprise the number of signs now covered over with layers of paint and put me to thinking of other signs I have noticed around town painted on the brick walls.

There is one sign that especially intrigues me... an old advertisement, painted on the brick wall in the alley across from City Hall. The faint outline of words – a company name or an advertising slogan – are there, albeit barely legible. It seems that there is only a portion of the older brick wall intact with enough ghostly white letters to attract attention yet not giving up its secret from the past.

It's no surprise, then, that these painted ads, faded by age and sunlight, are known around the world as "ghost ads" and "ghost signs." They are the ephemeral remnants of a form of advertising that

was once ubiquitous.

Hundreds of ghost ads lurk on building tops, alley walls and brick façades around many towns, yet, somewhat surprisingly, few folks seem to notice them.

Ghost ads are intriguing, eccentric and disappearing – catch them while you can.



MYSTERY OF THE GHOST AD SOLVED?



It has been many years since the bricks of the old Watkins and Bell storehouse were first painted with a product's message but Pam Clem at the Hardin County Clerk's office believes that a simple **USE GAIL & AX** was the bold headline that once greeted patrons before fading.

Gail & Ax was a smoking and chewing tobacco brand packaged at Baltimore, Maryland using ripe, sweetened "Burley" of Kentucky, Virginia, North Carolina and Maryland. It enjoyed a national and worldwide reputation when it came to smoking tobacco, fine cut chewing tobacco and snuff of various grades. Customers enjoyed the cigarette trading cards, collector tins, and posters that accompanied the quality smoke and chew.

Our local wall appears to have a ghostly diamond image, one also explained by the trademark logo of the Navy Tobacco.

Check out the wall in person when the sun is setting or after a rain and decide for yourself what message once was an attention seeker along Elizabethtown's Main Cross-today's Dixie Avenue.

MORE PAINTED BRICK WALL ADVERTISING FOUND IN TOWN



The old Western Auto store building showcased two business advertisements in 1972. Both the Western Auto store brand and a Coca-Cola advertisement featuring new twist off cap bottles greeted the public.



Photos Courtesy of The Hardin County History Museum
Remember the Dairy Chef located across from the Elizabethtown City Cemetery? Today's Cobbler Cafe touted that eatery along with frozen dairy confections alongside a previous tenant at the location.



A Coca-Cola clock & banner sign, mounted on the brick wall facing North Main Street, is dwarfed by a painted mural advertisement for the Showers and Hays Drug Store. This business was known for carrying quality chocolate candies, like Russell Stover, and Kodak film, a leading brand in camera film.



North Main Street boasted advertisement in the Cola Wars. A Coke machine is seen on the left as a compliment to its brand signage while Pepsi dominates the right side of the street and the Milburn Shoes sign. Notice the absence of any trees along the length of the Showers and Hays side during 1972.

The war between the Americans and the British, and in particular the American conquest of Canada, was a long, complicated affair that began with two countries woefully unprepared for war and the American people divided among themselves regarding the wisdom of entering into a second war with the British crown a mere thirty years after the conclusion of the American Revolution. The war was not a “*mere matter of marching*” as Thomas Jefferson thought it would be.

Although many Americans do not possess a thorough knowledge about the War of 1812, much that came out of the war is a vital part of American history. Five future presidents, Andrew Jackson, William Harrison, John Tyler, Zachery Taylor and James Buchanan served in the war, and Jackson’s exploits at the Battle of New Orleans are well known to most Americans. Chief Tecumseh of the Shawnee tribe, who allied with the British during the war, earned his reputation as a brave warrior and charismatic orator fiercely faithful to his native tribal ways during and after the war, and Dolly Madison, America’s first lady during the war, helped to preserve the American heritage by saving Gilbert Stewart’s painting of George Washington just before British troops burned the White House and much of the rest of official Washington. In addition, our national anthem was born during a failed attempt by the British to seize Baltimore, Maryland on September 13, 1814.

KENTUCKY MILITIAMEN

From the Battle of Tippecanoe to the end of the war at the Battle of New Orleans, Kentucky militiamen entered the battles wearing a fringed rifleman’s frock or simple homespun clothes, and usually, a wide brimmed floppy hat or a federal hat that reflected the 1812 era. Each company commander traditionally chose the color of the riflemen’s flock. Blue was the most popular color, but some riflemen wore yellow frocks that were made from hickory bark, some wore dingy brown frocks, and some wore frocks of a natural linen color. According to authorities, the fringe was sometimes the same color as the frock, but some of the frocks were blue with red fringe or black with red fringe. The fiercely loyal Kentuckians who fought in the war wore either shoes or moccasins.

The Adjutant General’s Report of the State of Kentucky during the War of 1812 listed many companies of mounted rifles. The best outfitted

The WAR of 1812 REMEMBERED

Kentucky volunteer carried a rifle, but many accounts of the war described soldiers who carried muskets and cartridge boxes. Since the rifles could not be fitted with bayonets, the soldiers also carried large knives and tomahawks. In addition, soldiers also carried knapsacks, blankets and canteens.

Generally, the Kentucky volunteers who served in the War of 1812 were destitute, because they were serving far from home, and this was especially true of Major General John Thomas of Hardin County and his 2,200 men who arrived at New Orleans on January 4, 1815.

According to Major General Andrew Jackson Thomas’ troops were, “*The worst provided body of men, perhaps, that ever went 1,500 miles from home to help a sister state.*”

Their clothing was ragged and they lacked tents and blankets. These men, who played a pivotal role in the defense of the water artery into the heart of America, were issued some supplies made by the grateful ladies of New Orleans.

One-fourth of the men who composed General Andrew “Old Hickory” Jackson’s regular army, the Tennessee Militia, the Creole Louisiana Militia, Lafitte’s pirates, the city volunteer militia, and the free Negroes who fought in the war were Kentuckians. Even though Jackson’s forces were outnumbered by the British troops, their determination and expert marksmanship, combined with the imaginative leadership, enabled them to handily defeat the superior forces. In 45 minutes the battle was over. During those crucible minutes, Jackson forces capture 500 British Redcoats and killed and wounded 2,100 more, while only 13 Americans lost their lives.

The war ended without gains in land or riches for the Americans, but with America entering a period of what history refers to as an “*Era of Good Feelings.*”



Residual doubts and fears about America's potential to succeed apart from England gave way to a surge of national pride and a long break from partisan politics. Arriving at this place in history, however, was not without cost. More than 2,800 combatants died and approximately 8,000 suffered from wounds. Of more than 24,000 Kentuckians who served during the war, 1,200 became casualties. Sixty-four percent of the Americans killed in the War of 1812 were Kentuckians.

BOUNTY LAND WARRANTS FOR 1812 MILITARY SERVICE

War of 1812 veterans, and later their widows and heirs, could apply for bounty land under the act of May 6, 1812, and a variety of subsequent federal laws. Most veterans were entitled to 160 acres, but in a few cases some received 320 acres, called double-bounties. Until 1842, the land lay within the states of Illinois, Arkansas, and Missouri, and until 1852 the land was not transferable.

It was a multi-step process beginning with a bounty land warrant. Veterans had to first apply for a warrant and if it was granted, they would receive notification that a numbered warrant had been issued in their name and was on file in the General Land Office. It was then up to the individual to use the warrant to apply for a patent which would establish ownership of the land.

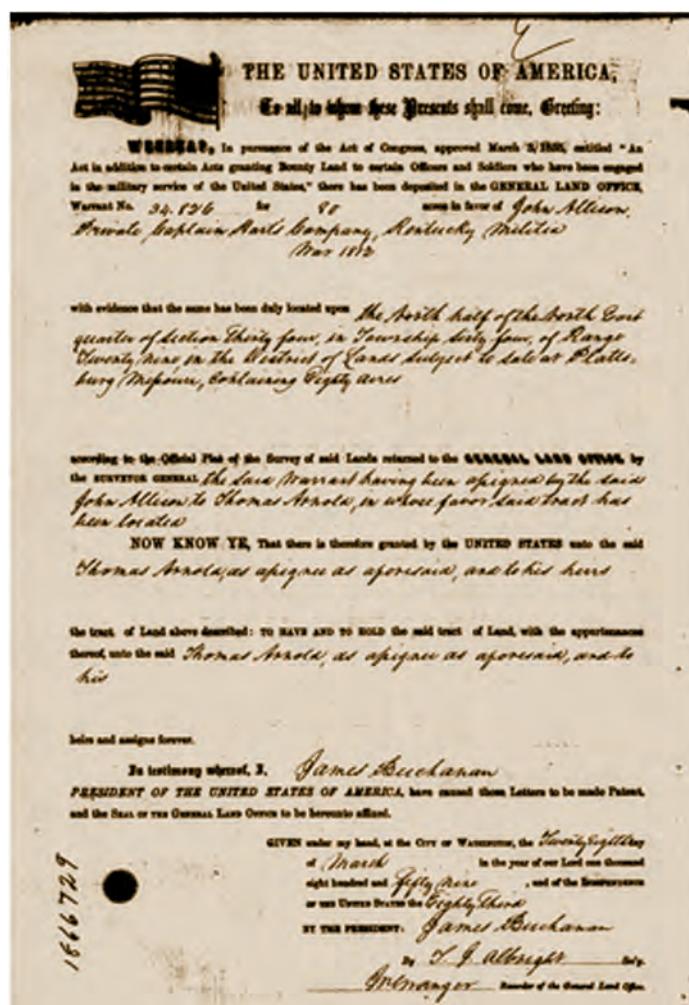


When a suspended bounty land claim for **JOHN ALLISON** of Hardin County, KY was re-examined by the Treasury Department's Third Auditor's Office on May 5, 1856 it was entered into the record that Private Allison served as a substitute soldier in Captain Aaron Hart's Kentucky Militia from the 15 November 1814 until the 15 May 1814 for Archelles Moreman.

The 14 pages of documents recorded in Allison's file and available from the National Archives War of 1812 Compiled Military Service Records reveal that he received two land bounties, a military service pension and upon his death his wife continued benefits with a widow pension.

PENSIONS FOR 1812 MILITARY SERVICE

Applications were filed as a result of acts instated in 1871 and 1878. These acts made it possible for veterans and their survivors to receive pensions based on service alone. Earlier acts provided pensions only for service related deaths or disabilities.



Photos Courtesy of The National Archives.

TOP LEFT: Certificate of service issue to John Allison for KY Militia service during the War of 1812. **TOP RIGHT:** Land Bounty for 80 acres issued to John Allison as payment for his service during the War of 1812.

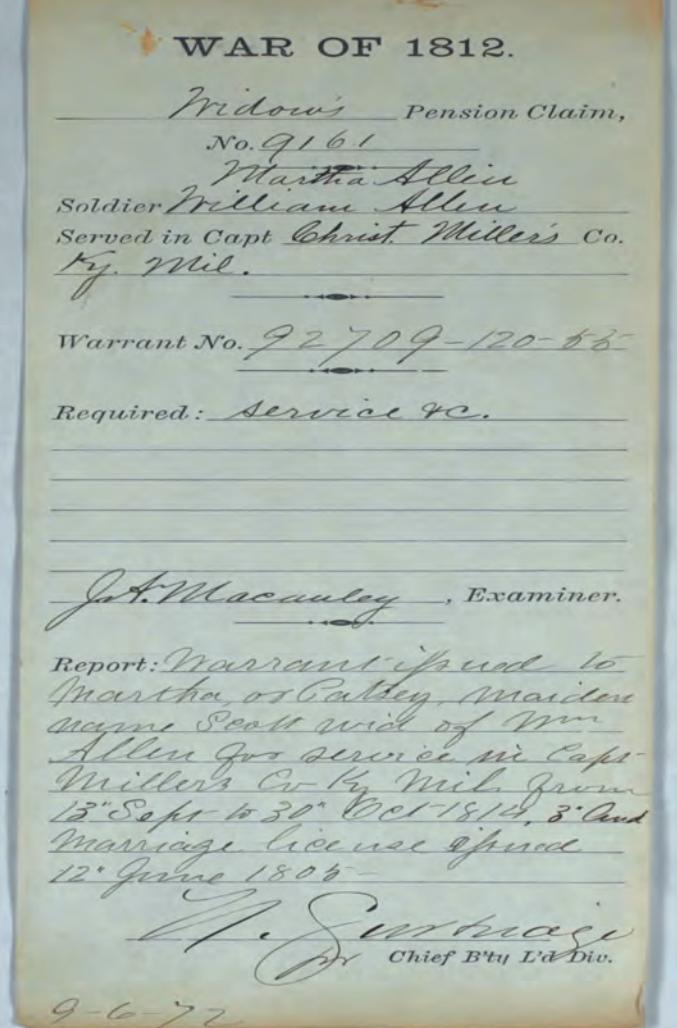
The act of **14 February 1871** granted pensions to surviving soldiers and sailors who had served 60 days in the War of 1812 and had been honorably discharged, or to those who had been personally named in any resolution by Congress for specific service of less than 60 days. The widows of such soldiers and sailors were eligible for pensions provided the marriage had taken place before the treaty of peace was ratified on 17 February 1815.

The act of **9 March 1878** provide pensions for surviving soldiers and sailors of the War of 1812 who had served for 14 days or in any engagement and had been honorably discharged and for their surviving widows. It made no proviso regarding the date of marriage.

In the summer of 1871, the widow of **WILLIAM ALLEN** made a claim for a widow's pension based upon her husband's War of 1812 service. Proof of their June 13, 1805 marriage in Hardin County, KY was submitted to verify the requirements of a pre-February 14, 1871 union along with the duly signed declaration of widowhood.

On November 15, 1872, Mrs. Allen's application for the eight dollar per month pension was rejected for insufficient service. Mr. Allen had served only 55 of the required 60 days during the period of war.

Mrs. Allen died before the requirements of service was lowered in March 1878.



Photos Courtesy of The National Archives.

*The Hardin County Historical Society
Is Cordially Invited
to a War of 1812 Grave Marking Ceremony
at Freeman Lake Park Miller-Thomas Cemetery
Monday, July 23, 2012
at one o'clock in the afternoon
for Captain Christopher Miller of Hardin County*

**SPECIAL CEREMONY BY THE KENTUCKY GOVERNOR ISAAC SHELBY CHAPTER
NATIONAL SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION COLOR GUARD
with special tributes from the**

**Kentucky General Zachary Taylor Chapter National Society United States Daughters of 1812
and the**

Captain Jacob VanMeter Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Utility and Innovation

CELEBRATING EARLY INDUSTRY WITH CENTURIES OF HISTORY

By Susan Evans McCrobie, HCHS Member

Cartoons may feature the prehistoric man, Fred Flintstone, working at Slate's Gravel Pit but when it comes to early industry sand and gravel pits have written their way into the script for centuries with the help of fire.

Our neighbor on the river to the north, Louisville, proudly showcases their earliest known evidence of glass manufacturing in the formation of the original Kentucky Glass Works around 1850 and later known as Louisville Glass Works. The 1850 census recorded a total of 50 workers employed there and some 21 of them as glassblowers. According to the February 3, 1886, issue of the *Louisville Industrial & Commercial Gazette*, the sand used for making the glass was imported from Elizabethtown.

When sand is heated to 1700 degrees Celsius it melts. The molecular structure of sand changes during the heating and subsequent cooling and becomes glass. Glass is actually a cross between a solid and a liquid, with a crystalline structure of a solid and the molecular structure of a liquid - an amorphous solid. Its very composition is why old window glass appears wavy, as the glass slowly "drips" or slides down the pane with the repeated heating and cooling with age, leaving the top of the window pane noticeably thinner than the bottom.

The sand pit at Elizabethtown was obviously prized for the quality of material to be had for manufacture of bottles, jars, tumblers, and similar functional containers, as well as other hand blown glass items at the original Kentucky Glass Works Plant.

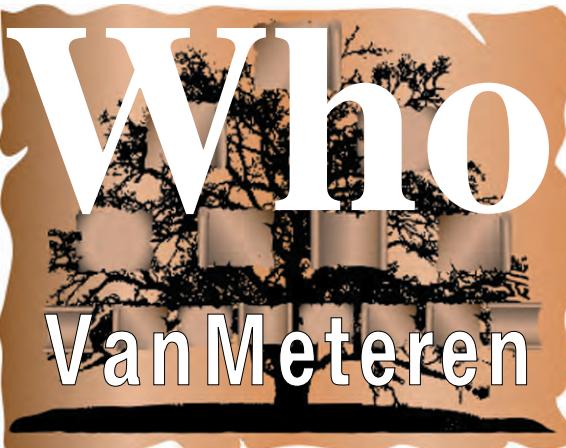
Iron content is one of the major factors that affects the color of the glass. Low iron sands are used to produce clear glass for bottles, while sand with higher iron content is used to make amber glass bottles. Thus, both at the quarry site and in the manufacturing process, monitoring the iron content is very important to ensure the quality of the glass products.

Without a doubt, the examples of hand blown glass still surviving from the Louisville plant using Elizabethtown sand are outstanding in quality. The range of shades and colors include the aquamarines, greens, and clear.

The only known marble and stone cutter operating in Elizabethtown during the time period was that of Mr. John D. Culley. Most likely, the commercial operation he ran included the quarry that provided natural resources for the Louisville Glass Works operation.



Early 7 1/4"
Louisville, KY
Glassworks eagle
flask with ribbed
base. Originally
intended as
refillable distilled
spirits containers,
they were also
used for
medicines and
bitters.



Who Van Meteren

The First in a Series about the Families Who Settled Hardin County and their Early Roots in this Country

DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

LOCAL FAMILY SPANS BACK TO THE NATION'S BEGINNING

Story by Judith Cummins French, HCHS Member

Many in Hardin and surrounding counties have some connection to the VanMeteren/VanMeter family. Here is a brief look at the first to come to the "Colonies".

Jan Joost VanMeteren was born about 1634 in Meteren in Theilerwaard, a providence of Gelderland, southeast of Utrecht, between Tiel and Gorincham in Holland. His wife was Maeyken Hendryjkson Crom, widow of William Crom. Crom and Maeyken had three children, Lisbeth born in 1647, Catherin born in 1650, and Geertje born in 1653. These children were adopted by Jan Joost and raised as his own. To Jan Joost and Maeyken were born Jooste Janse in 1656 and Gysbert Janse in 1660.

Records show than Jan Joost, with his wife and five children ages 15, 12, 9, 6, and 2 1/2 years sailed from Holland April 12, 1662 aboard D'Vas (The Fox) and arrived in the New World August 31, 1662. They went immediately up the Hudson River to Wiltwyck.

Jan Joosten was in America a year earlier, as he was appointed to serve on a committee along with Allard Heymans Roosa and Jan Geeitseen, to superintend the enclosure of the new village of New Dorp (Hurley) in the present county of Ulster, New York. A petition for the allotment of farmlands and establishment of the village of Hurley was received by the director general from a number of the inhabitants of Wiltwyck. After consideration it was resolved to lay out a new settlement and accommodate the petitioners as far as possible.

Among the petitioners were Matthew Blanchand, Anthony Crispel, Louis DuBois and Jan Joost Van Meteren. (It is worthy to mention for future reference that the daughter of Louis DuBouis, Sarah, married Jan's son, Joost Janse)

Children of Jan Van Meteren and Maeyken Hendryjkson are:

2 i. Lysbeth2 Van Meteren, born 1647; died WFT Est. 1648-1741.

+ 3 ii. Joost Janse Van Meteren, born 1656 in Tielderweert Holland; died 1705 in Salem Co. NJ

4 iii. Gysbert Jansen Van Meteren, born 1660; died WFT Est. 1661-1750.

Jan Joosten, with his family, settled in Wyltwick [now Kingston] in the summer of 1662, but he is not noted in the activities of that community until the 7th of June, 1663, the date when the Minnisink Indians made an attack on the village and its vicinity, raiding and burning the settlement and carrying away women and children in captivity. Among the latter were Jan's wife and two of his children, Jooste Jans being one of them. Captain Kreiger's journal, which gives a general account of the expedition of rescue, unfortunately does not name him, but it is elsewhere stated that it was due to Jooste Jan's three months' association with the Indians, during his captivity, that gave him the knowledge of their habits, trails, plans and war feuds with other tribes, and so impressed him with a desire for their adventurous life.

DID YOU KNOW...

We got our word "cookie" from the Dutch work "koekje?" This is one of the many words that are part of our American vocabulary that we inherited from the Dutch who, like VanMeteren, settled New York. (Their "j" is pronounced like a "y".)

His will was found filed, with an inventory of his personal property, in the Burlington County Surrogate's office. This instrument is endorsed "Will of Jan Joosten of ... June 13th, 1706," and is further marked "Dutch." His personal estate included six slaves, a negro man, woman and four children. The appraisers were Joris van Neste and Hendrix Reinersen; it was sworn to by "John Van Mator." Antedating this document is a "testamentary disposition" signed jointly by Jan Joosten and his wife, Macyke Hendricksen, and dated 16th December, 1681, which reads: "Macyke Hendricksen shall retain full possession of the estate. She consents that the survivor shall possess everything, lands, houses, personal property, money, gold, silver--coined or uncoined. After their decease the property is to be inherited by their children--Jooste to have one-half the entire estate first. Jooste and Gysbert to have the land at Marbletown--Jooste one-half and then the other half to be divided between them. Geertje to have the land at Wassemaker's land. Children of Lysbeth, deceased, to have their portion in money from the other children."{2}

Jooste Jans was the eldest son--therefore, the heir-at-law and entitled to a double portion. Geertje was the eldest daughter, who, from the additional name of "Crom," suggests that she had been married before this time, or that she was the daughter of Jan Joosten by a former marriage and carried her mother's name as the custom was in Holland. Lysbeth predeceased her father and left children. Another daughter, not named in the will, is supposed to have been Cathrin, and can only be accounted for by her marriage and in having received her portion and so disappears from consideration in the distribution of the property.

The VanMeteren/VanMeter family moved west as did many of the original families. The progression was to PA, VA, and finally to KY. The family was very active in the Revolutionary War and contributed much to the development of the United States of America. The heritage they left for descendants is a very rich one. All who can claim this line should be very proud.

Next time...

**the "Walloon"
LOUIS DuBOIS**



Message From The President

Greetings to all members,

As I am writing this my thermometers outside read 105 and 106, I hope by the time of the meeting we are cooler. With summer on us, many are traveling, have traveled, or having or had company, but I hope you still have time to attend this meeting as we what a very special program planned commemorating the 200th Anniversary of the War of 1812.

The 4th of July has come and gone, but I hope that our patriotism doesn't go with it. The article this month on the first VanMeteren to come to the colonies is sort of a trial balloon. I hope to have more on this remarkable family to whom so many of the Society are related. Having been married to one of the descendants of this man makes the history of the family and the county special to me.

Driving thru downtown, I see many new things. There are colorful History Banners on the streets and there is a beautiful new mural on the old Western Auto building. A great big "Thank You" to all who had a hand or brush in these additions to our town. While these may not seem like giant steps in restoring the downtown to a vibrant center of community life, at least the area is moving in the right direction. I look forward to seeing the next addition to the community's downtown public face and have been advised there is much to come.

Remember to invite friends and family to our meeting and to, hopefully, join the HCHS. I hope that together we can make history fun and interesting.

-Judith "Judy" Cummins French

“ Each generation must take nourishment from the other and give knowledge to the one that comes after.”

-Anon.

Historical Society announces next meeting



Harry Smith

as

PRIVATE WILLIAM GREATHOUSE

The Hardin County Historical Society will meet Monday evening, July 23, 2012, at the STATE THEATER GALLERY, 209 West Dixie Avenue, in downtown Elizabethtown. The buffet dinner, catered by BACK HOME, will be served at 6:30 PM. The price is \$8.50 per person. Call Twylane VanLahr at 270-765-2515 by **Friday, July 20th, for dinner reservations**; later reservations for the meal cannot be guaranteed.

The dinner is followed at 7 P.M. by a special Chautauquan program. When Kentucky Governor Isaac Shelby was tasked with raising troops for a war with the British and the Indians, Kentuckians responded with fervor. William Greathouse was one of more than 3,500 Kentuckians who answered Shelby's call to arms in 1813. Just a teenager, Greathouse joined the troops in Nelson County because he strongly opposed the British occupation and the Indian Confederacy led by Chief Tecumseh. With great humor and pride in his home state, Private Greathouse tells his story of his personal contributions to American history while explaining Kentucky's vital role in America's "Second War for Independence." You won't want to miss this!

ELIZABETHTOWN, KY 42702

POST OFFICE BOX 381

HARDIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY