

A City Up At Auction

ELIZABETHTOWN, KY., PRACTICALLY TO BE SOLD.

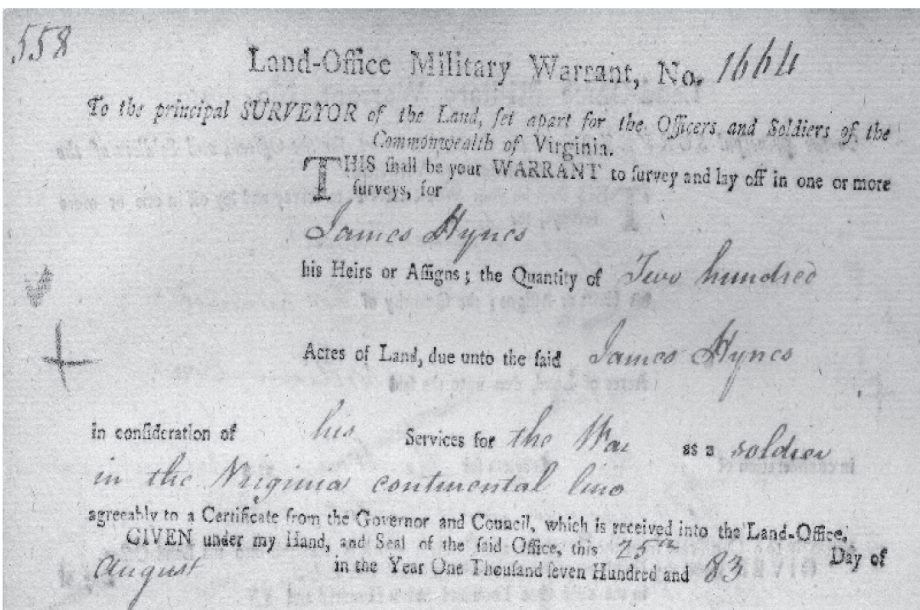
The New York Times

September 6, 1891

LOUISVILLE, KY., Sept. 5.- The little City of Elizabethtown, Ky., is greatly excited to-day over the order of the court, virtually putting the city up at public auction, to satisfy an old judgment held by Philadelphia people.

A judgment was rendered in the Harden Circuit Court, Dec. 13, 1860, in favor of Paul M. Spofford and others of Philadelphia against John Watson and others, the amount involved being about \$40,000. At the last term of the Harden County Circuit Court, Judge T.R. McBeath upon the motion of Thomas G. Stuart of Winchester, attorney for Spofford, ordered the Master Commissioner to sell the property to satisfy the judgment, the sale to take place the third Monday in October.

The property consists of 15,000 acres of land in Harden County, extending from Clear Creek to Middle Creek, and including the entire city of Elizabethtown. The property in question was patented by the State of Virginia to Nicholas Low, in 1786, and the plaintiff secured his judgment in 1860, for money advanced to the patentee. Some claim that the land upon which Elizabethtown stands was secured by a patent to J. H. Hynes, granted before the patent of 1786 referred to in the judgment. Others claim that the judgment is barred by limitation. What the object of rendering the judgment is not known, but a grant many have a sneaking suspicion that there are some mineral lands included in the tract that somebody wants to get possession of through a defect in the title. Elizabethtown had 2,800 inhabitants by the last census.



The first settlements made around the present site of Elizabethtown, then Jefferson County, Virginia, in the year 1780 were in the form of forts built by Col. Andrew Hynes, Hon. Thomas Helm and Hon. Samuel Haycraft.

On August 25, 1783, the Governor of Virginia issued James Hynes title to two hundred acres of land in the area. Andrew Hynes was also granted many acres along Severns Valley as well as other areas across what would become Kentucky.

The only record of land granted from the State of Virginia to Nicholas Low, a prominent merchant (Low & Wallace) and developer from New York City, was 30,000 acres along the water course of the Rolling Fork and Green Rivers. This land grant was recorded on February 20, 1786.

Low was a supporter of the Rebel cause during the American Revolution. After the war, he purchased several large tracts of land in upstate New York as a speculation and later laid out town sites thus dividing and selling the holdings.

Big Springs: Town from A Nearly Forgotten Era

By CATHY HARNED
Examiner Staff Writer

There's a common saying in Big Springs. "The town was too big for one county to take care of," people say, "so they put it in three counties." Although they wink now, Big Springs, which is located in the extreme northwestern part of Hardin County, was once much larger than Elizabethtown. Actually, only one corner of the town is in Hardin County. The rest of Big Springs is in Breckinridge and Meade counties. A granite marker, erected in the 1950s, notes the spot where the three counties touch. Nearby is a natural bridge. As far as town residents know, it's the only one in the world which has a natural stream running beneath and a paved road running overhead.

Big Springs, however, is unique for reasons other than geographical accident. It is a town from another era, a step into the past. One of Hardin County's first communities, Big Springs was founded in the early 1800's. The sleepy town, once a major trading route, retains its pre-Civil War appearance.

Julius Hodges, 85, is the town's unofficial historian. He and his wife, Bertha, 75, are eager to talk of their home. From them one learns Daniel Boone once lived one and a half miles northeast of town, at a hunting camp built in 1780 and named "Boone Springs." The limestone base of the cabin is still visible. Abraham Lincoln passed through as a young man, on his way to Illinois and later the presidency of the United States.

In the 1800s, Hodges noted as we toured the town, Big Springs prospered. Its function as an early trading post blossomed into a thriving economy. Several industries began, among them, the distillation of "Big Springs Straight" whisky. Big Springs was also the birthplace of Moman's Hog Remedy, still produced by the same family in Illinois, and distributed nationally. Invented on a local farm, the remedy contained fresh herbs. Julius still remembers seeing white vans with the Moman's insignia on the side at the turn of the century.

Just as the now tiny community reached its zenith in the late 1800s, however, a near death blow was struck. Served until that time by the Louisville-Nashville stagecoach line, Big Springs was a major stopover. Three churches, three saloons and two hotels served visitors. A racetrack attracted fans from throughout the entire state. Saturdays, the residents engaged in horse trading. And then, economic disaster struck.

"The railroads took over," Hodges says, with a hint of sadness in his voice. "They surveyed through here, but some way they couldn't get the right-of-way. They went on either side. That killed the town."

For a while, things went on much as they had before the railroad's advent. Railroad lines were few, and people still relied primarily on horses for transportation. Many local farmers remained customers.

The distillery and saloons did a booming business. "They made it in barrels, and the saloons took it and used it as they wanted," Hodges remarks. "The county lines goes through what as the saloon. They voted Breckinridge County dry, so they just moved the bar over on the other side of the room, and went on



This photograph of Downtown Big Spring was taken around 1910. Doran and Hicks building shown in the foreground.

selling in Meade County!

"They was always fights," Julius recalls. "They'd come in here from these hills, from three counties...Back then, the sheriff couldn't cross the county line and take -anybody, Anybody that's get in trouble, they'd just cross the street. They'd have to have all three sheriffs to arrest them!"

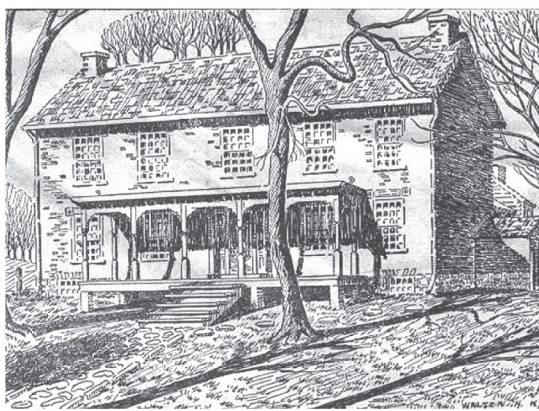
On horse trading Saturdays, the town was crowded with visitors. "They'd have a few fights for fun and swap horses," Julius laughs, "I imagine they was somebody got taken. In horse tradin', they's always somebody getting stuck!"

Famous circuses, such as Barnum and Bailey's and Van Amberg's, Big Springs, also visited Big Springs, once with tragic results. Hodges recalls a murder which occurred during a circus stop: "A fellow here in Meade County killed a showman one time, an animal trainer. They (the sightseers) was crowding so, pushing up and looking at the animals, and he (the Meade Countian) had to throw one foot over the rope to keep his balance." The animal trainer, misinterpreting the move and made the mistake of striking a blow with his whip.

"He cracked him one under the chin and broke his neck. He was a big, stout man, and he just set on him. And that was all she wrote. They buried him at Hardinsburg the next day," Julius says with a grin.

The early blacksmith and tinsmith shops are gone now, but the old livery remains, as do two hotels, a doctor's office and a general store. None are now active. The former general store, which closed eight years ago, has been converted into an antique shop by Louisvillean Floyd Wheeler. Julius Hodges remembers an active general store, which sold hardware, dry goods and a little bit of everything. A husband, wife, two children and two clerks tended shop and were continually busy.

It's a little hard to believe now, but when I was a boy," Hodges says, "this merchant had his goods shipped in to Ekron (by rail). That wagon made a trip to Ekron every day. That don't look reasonable, now...it done a lot of business, 'cause they wasn't cars to go other places. All of them was as busy as they could be."



About 1839 or 1840 Burr H. Crutcher built this red brick house in Hardin County, near the Meade County line, twenty miles from Elizabethtown and about seven miles from what is now State Highway 60. The main part of the building consists of four spacious rooms, two upstairs and two down, with a large central hall in which is a graceful stairway. This part has both attic and basement. The fireplace in the kitchen has a crane. The window frames are put together with wooden pegs. The window panes are eight by ten inches, twenty-four panes to a window. The floors are of various widths of ash. A one-story addition, made years after the house was built, has three rooms. The house was damaged by a tornado in 1849.

Burr Crutcher was so named because just four months prior to his birth Aaron Burr was a guest in the home of his father, William Crutcher, in Brandenburg, Ky. Dr. John D. Strother bought the place about 1868, and his daughter, Mrs. James W. Moorman was a second generation resident at this Big Springs home.

Big Spring, KY Remembered For Military Activity During Civil War

Many stories about Big Spring could be told about the Civil War: of soldiers camped in the area and prisoners both white and black alike held captive in the cellars with some being shot as reprisals.

Stories of guerrillas and the terror they brought could also be told. According to local legend, Sue Mundy, one of the most vicious of the guerilla leaders, was captured near what is now Irvington and brought to Big Springs and held in the cellar of the old general store. Mundy was later removed to Louisville, where he was executed by hanging.

More stories could be told, some of which would be about runaway slaves being held in the cellar while waiting for their masters to come for them

The biggest story to be told is that Big Springs was the major engagement of the war for the men of the 12th U.S.C. Heavy Artillery Regiment. On January 5, 1865, the Federal troops camped at a white church on the outskirts of Big Springs. When two black soldiers went into town to ascertain the location of the Confederates, they were disarmed and told to make a run for the church. William Nichols reached the church safely; the other soldier fell dead in the churchyard as bullets splattered against the side of the building. Marris and Henry Adcock lead two squads of twenty men each on flanking movements to flush out the Confederates, but the enemy fled before the Union troops took their positions. That night the enemy made several demonstrations, only to be driven back each time. During the next two days the Confederate and Union soldiers exchanged fire on several occasions. During the lull in fighting, the Federals recruited black troops.

Beneath the store is a limestone jail. Julius' son, Herb, who whiled away his hours in the antique shop while his father and I toured the town, interpreted its history: "Maybe one (during the Civil War), the South would come through here and they'd lock up their prisoners and do a little honky-tonkying. Maybe then the next night, the North would come through and lock up their prisoners."

Runaway slaves and the town rowdies also saw the stone walls. Herb adds: "Since it was in three counties, they'd have to take some of them to Hardinsburg, some of them to Brandenburg and some of them to Elizabethtown."

Julius' own father, Cajabiel Hodges, was on the Confederate side during the War Between the States. At mention of the subject, Hodges eagerly went upstairs to fetch his father's pistol, now proudly installed in a leather holster recently tooled by son Herb.

Cajabiel died when Julius was only two years old, but he remembers what facts his mother told him about the war. "He (Cajabiel) was just a boy about 16," Hodges begins. "His outfit was overpowered right up above Elizabethtown. I guess they call that Bloody Ridge. Captain Clay Hayes was his captain. He was from Vine Grove. Hayes was a recruiting officer. They didn't get through to Jeff Davis."

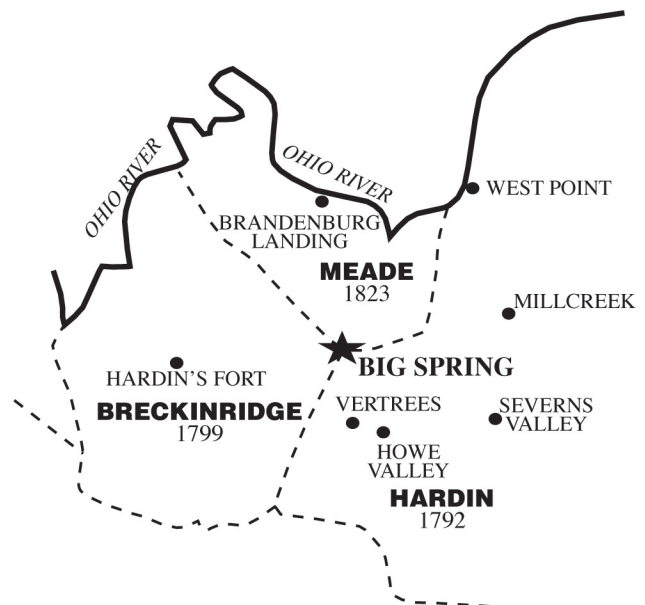
Uninjured in the skirmish, Cajabiel and his partner were later cut off from Their command. "They hadn't ; eaten for a couple days," walked up to a house and asked if they had anything a hungry man could eat. "Refused food, Cajabiel noticed the coals were freshly raked, and saw something in a skillet.

At the same time, he also noticed something behind a slightly ajar door. Thinking someone might be hiding in the room, Cajabiel prepared for the worst. "He just stepped around the door," Hodges comments, "and pulled it back. There was a stack of fried pies! He grabbed up about six, and kept three and gave three to his partner. She must have been for the other side," Julius speculates.

Antique dealer Floyd Wheeler, a retired airline pilot, also enjoys the quiet country life, although in moderation. "All this stuff's been here since the Civil War...I thought it'd made a good antique shop It looked like a good out-of-the-way antique shop, with not too much business to fool with.

BIG SPRING AT THE CORNER POINT OF THREE COUNTIES

From the diary of Capt John Kasey, Jr., December 20, 1839: "The big spring has improved considerably since the year 1830. There is at this time 3 stores; 1 grocery, 2 tavern houses & 1 church (a brick one) and several dwelling houses; work shops: one tailor & 2 sadlers; 2 blacksmiths shops."



Big Spring Site for the Birth of a Business



In 1885, on his farm near Big Spring, Thomas Moorman was concerned about the poor condition of his hogs. He wrote the United States Department of Agriculture in Washington D.C., and received a formula for a remedy, a "hog tonic." Mixing it painstakingly, according to directions, he and his sons, Hamilton Chapman, William Clay, Edgar V. and Charles Aaron, fed it to their hogs. Their hog tonic was a success.

William Clay Moorman became a well-known preacher in Kentucky; Edgar V. Moorman ran for Vice President of the United States in 1940 on the prohibition ticket.

Soon neighbors wanted to buy some of the mineral mixture that helped ailing hogs. Then and there the Moorman family established a small business in their barn - mixing, packaging, and delivering the product with a spring wagon. For the next 15 years their factory was a portion of

the family barn and their remedy business was a thriving sideline to their main occupation of farming.

In 1900 one of Thomas Moorman's sons, E.V. Moorman, made the courageous decision to leave the farm and start a full time business manufacturing the hog remedy mixture. He decided to establish himself in Gorin, Missouri in order to be closer to the Midwest hog growing area (a second possible reason for settling in Gorin was that E.V. Moorman had decided to marry a Gorin girl). E.V. Moorman needed help in his new business venture. He wanted and got the assistance of his younger brother, C.A., but in order for C.A. to leave the family

farm in Big Spring, C.A. had to agree to pay his father the cost of hiring his replacement to work on the farm.

A few years later, in 1910, seeking better transportation facilities, they moved their small operation to Quincy, Illinois to larger facilities on Front Street. Two years later the firm was incorporated with E.V. Moorman as President. In 1918, the brothers bought the property where the corporate headquarters were to be located.

From the original product, a hog mineral mixture sold in home made white cotton sacks, Moorman's grew to manufacture more than 150 different products for feeding livestock and poultry. The small business that was founded near Big Spring developed into a billion dollar industry that employed some 4,000 people serving farmers, ranchers, and feeders in 34 states.

In 1998 the Moorman Company was sold to Archer Daniels Midland.



There was once Big Business in Big Spring

RECREATION and WHISKEY KEY DRIVERS OF ECONOMY

At one time, Big Spring supported a large distillery, owned by Jim Wheatley. It was located behind and to the right of the Clarkston-Hardaway mansion also known as "Maplewood."

The whiskey made at the distillery was known as "Big Spring Straight". Since it was not sold in bottles, customers had to fill their own containers from spigots that were in the end of each barrel.

Horse races were the biggest events that took place in Big Spring during the mid to late 1800s. The track drew crowds of people from all over Kentucky. Big Spring was also popular as a recreational site in the 1800s and harness racing fans from all over Kentucky met there. McHenry Meador was the racetrack owner.

The hotel in Big Spring enjoyed a thriving business during the horse races. At one time, the county line between Breckinridge and Meade Counties was moved and happened to pass through the center of the tavern on the ground level of the hotel. With Breckinridge County being dry, and Meade, wet, the proprietor simply started serving alcoholic beverages across the room on the Meade County side.



Above: Area where the racetrack was located, one-fourth mile north of Big Spring and McHenry Meador, owner/operator of Big Spring general and furniture store, the horse race track, the hotel and saloon, and also town undertaker. Right: A monument marks the point where Breckinridge, Meade, and Hardin counties meet in Big Spring, in background is the hotel where visitors and racing fans from all over Kentucky would congregate.



THE "BIG SPRING" from which the town derived its name, enters and exits the earth at several points in the area. The mouth is located in Hardin County just before the waters reach Breckinridge County

Citizen Makes Great Strides for the Community

Sarah Eliza Martin Leonard was advocacy of a multitude of worth causes during her lifetime. She may not have been born with the right to vote but like the suffragettes she opened the door for many others to follow in the footsteps of her less than conventional view on life for the time.

“Grandmother was a lady who never let personal or societal roadblocks stand in her way,” says Martha Leonard Fontenot of Cedar Park, Texas.

In her younger years, Eliza decided to become a schoolteacher, even though it was an occupation mainly filled by men. She boldly set out by train to Bowling Green, Kentucky attending Western Kentucky University and gaining training required to fulfill that role in a one-room schoolhouse near Flaherty.

She married Eugene F. Leonard on January 9, 1914 in Hardin County and couple began a family.

In mid-life, she took an interest in her town and decided to run for Vine Grove City Council. She was elected. The citizens of Vine Grove appreciated the good work Mrs. Leonard accomplished and they would come to enjoy the strides she made for her neighbors.

Leonard wanted Vine Grove to become eligible for house-to-house delivery by the postal service. In order for that to be done, streets had to be named, and houses had to be numbered.

Not able to drive, Leonard set out afoot to the houses in town numerous times to get citizens to agree on street names and arrange with the town council to order and erect signs with the proper names. She developed a numbering system and walked again, numbering all the houses.

“Grandma Leonard needed a ride to Louisville to pick up approved white plastic numbers to mark houses and I was glad to drive her,” recalls Iva Powell.

“She was a wonderful woman, the whole community loved her and called her grandma Leonard,” said Powell adding that her neighbored just did what needed to be done to make life better for others without hesitating.

“I remember her getting that Greyhound bus service to come to town each day to pick up the children from St. Brigid’s and take them to Elizabethtown Catholic School,” said Powell.

“It’s a shame that a lack of a safe ride took Grandma Leonard’s life,” lamented Powell, “she was struck while walking home from church services and died.”



How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.

- ANNE FRANK

Left: Mrs. Sarah Eliza Leonard



Greyhound Bus loading for departure from Vine Grove to Elizabethtown Catholic School. Left to right: H.H. Hargan, Mary Hibbs, Mrs. C.E. Yates, Mayor Margaret Montgomery, Earl Vowels, Roy Yates, Mrs. J. Mac Brown, Mrs. Eliza Leonard, Donnie Cooper, Greg Campbell, Gene Yates, Mike Leonard, Mary Fred Edelin, Janice Ray.



Flaherty, KY - St. Martin one-room-school, Sarah Eliza Martin, teacher circa 1910 – 13.

History behind 109 East Dixie and the Tenants

Recently Kenny Tabb received an interesting email that has lead to much discussion and the uncovering of some interesting Civil War facts that history buffs speculate upon.

Subject: Historical Society: County Attorney's Office
Kenny,

Does the Historical Society have any information about the building where the County Attorney's office is now (the old Western Auto Building)? I have had an encounter with the ghost that resides there (seriously), and I am trying to see if I can find out who she may have been. I've tried to track it through deeds on line but can't get very far. I thought maybe there may be some information about that building due to it's age and proximity to Civil War activity. Thanks!

--Judy Bland

The October 2000 issue of The Central Times (Central Hardin High School newspaper) had the following story...

Are poltergeists for real?

by BRAD MCCROBIE
Layout Co-Editor

Twelve percent of reported ghost cases in America are true, unexplainable experiences. Twelve-year-old Zada West and her 9-year-old brother, Geno, are among those statistics. Their mother, Shelly, reports they are not happy with their luck.

"Strange things just happen here," says West of her home above the Dixie Quince Café in Elizabethtown. None of her children want to sleep alone, although they each have a bedroom.

Zada awoke one night recently, cold while sharing Geno's bed. When the covers wouldn't pull up she sat up to see what was holding them back. A woman in an old fashioned white dress with blonde hair in a French twist sat atop the covers on the end of the bed crying.

A terrified Zada confided the incident to her astounded mother. Geno confirmed the strange but true encounter. He has seen Emma more than once at the end of his bed and adds that she cries a lot.

Shelly admits that she has never seen the ghost but has researched Emma after the children's episode to discover that Emma's little boy, Josh, was reported missing in Elizabethtown many years ago. Emma's tears are from a mother's broken heart that lingers across time.

The question bounced back to Judy Bland was simple...Is your ghost the same woman as described above? Have you encountered her in the upstairs of the building? The Hardin County Historical Society would like to hear your story in their October Newsletter if you would be willing to share it with them.

Yes, this is the ghost we and evidently several others have encountered in that building. Do you know if she got a last name on Emma? She came after the Woelpert's then? Well, here is my story. When Steve became County Attorney again, I went with him to the see his office. I didn't realize at the time what building it was in. I asked him if he knew that building was haunted, and he didn't. He began asking and several of his employees told him it was indeed haunted. They had seen a door open and close on its' own, and felt cold spots and just an eerie feeling at times. One night Steve was at the office late while the jail crew was there cleaning. When he got ready to leave, the

deputy asked him if everyone else had left. Steve said, "Yes....well, everybody human anyway." The deputy said, "Oh, don't worry, "she" never bothers anything." My best friend was working for Steve for a while, and she went in on a Sunday afternoon to catch up on some work. While sitting at her desk, a Post-It note came off its' pad and stuck onto a bottle that was on her desk. Then the whole area around her turned icy cold. Well, that's all I needed to know so I planned a ghost hunt with my brother who lives in Florida. When Steve asked me what I would like for Mother's Day this year, I said "Two Sony Digital Recorders". My brother came up and he and my son Kelly and I went down there one night. Steve went with us initially to show us where the light switches were and showed us around the building. One strange thing right off we noticed was that there was a strange smell upstairs. You couldn't smell it downstairs...but it was very strong odor, like something burning. Steve said he had never smelled that smell before or since. My brother said later that after you smell a certain smell for awhile, you don't notice it anymore. This one never went away.

After Steve left, we turned out all the lights and I turned on my digital recorders to try and capture EVP, (electronic voice phenomena. For some reason, these recorders can pick up disembodied voices that the human ear cannot hear at the time). I kept one with me at all times, and I put the other one in Steve's office, as I had heard that is where the ghost usually stays.

We sat down on the couches upstairs. My son was directly across from me and my brother was to my right. After a few minutes, Kelly said "I just heard a sigh". I immediately started taking pictures of him. When we checked them, they showed 3 orbs to his right side. The very next photo taken immediately afterwards showed nothing.

We spend the next 2 _ hours moving about the building, upstairs and downstairs, sitting and waiting for something to happen but nothing did. We had been downstairs quite a while when Kelly said "Let's wrap it up, if something was going to happen it would have by now. So we decided to go back upstairs for 20 more minutes than if nothing happens, we would go home. We went back up the stairs, and I remember we were making quite a bit of noise and laughing at something. We spent the next 20 minutes sitting quietly on the couch, then left.

The next day, I started listening to the recorder I kept with me the whole time. I had 2 recorders with 3 hours of recording on each, so I had to spend 6 hours listening with earphones to these recorders. The first one had nothing on it other than our own voices. I was very disappointed. So I started on the one that I had left in Steve's office. Nothing. Nothing anyway until that last 20 minutes when we went back upstairs. As soon as I started hearing us laughing as we came up the stairs, I heard a very loud sigh on the recorder. Then a female voice started talking, and once she got going, she didn't stop the whole time we were there. A lot of it is hard to make out, because it was a Saturday night and lots of traffic was going by outside, and the noise echoes off the buildings. But you can hear some things very clearly. She says "Save yourselves", "Get Out!" "Satan is a liar" and "Blessed Release." I couldn't believe it! I think she held out for the first 2-1/2 hours, and then thought we were gone when we went downstairs. Then when she heard us coming back up, it antagonized her.

Steve put a mandate out to all his employees that they were not to go in the building and work alone at night. Then he called Laura Couch and Edna Berger and got their personal experiences, which were many. [This email portion relating to the conservation and its content not available for reprint upon request.] To me, that would mean the spirit was trying to manifest itself. Can you tell I watch "Ghost Hunters" on TV?) It seems that her trademark is that sigh, which she my son heard in his ear.

I am waiting to go back on a week night much, in the wee hours when traffic is down. I want to try and see if she will answer some questions for me...that's why finding out her name is important. I also want to see if she wants to stay there or needs help leaving...then try to figure out what to do if she does. There have been so many reports of ghost sightings in downtown E-town, I have always believed most of those buildings are haunted. When I worked at the PVA office when it was in the Court House, we would sometimes work late at night running tax bills, and we could smell cherry tobacco pipe smoke when no one else was in the building. When Steve was County Attorney the first time, he would have to go down to the office at 30 Public Square to do warrants, and the whole time he was there he could hear footsteps going up and down the stairs outside the door. I know several people who have heard these footsteps. And of course, Chris Shaw and Larry Gream have had very memorable experiences in that area also.

So, that's my story. I will let you know what happens when I go back. Thanks for the information. I thought maybe she dated from the Civil War as many of the sightings around downtown have, but evidently she is from a later era. Thanks again!

--Judy Bland

Shelly West was tracked down. Her and her family had lived above their restaurant--The Dixie Quince Cafe--and after much interaction with the lady ghost had first researched her, tried to live peacefully with her and finally moved. Shelly was willing to both divulge what she had uncovered about Emma and talk with Judy.

Thanks for getting Shelly's number for me. We had a very interesting conversation last night. I am really hoping you can find those papers...she said there is a Civil War link to that building. Maybe another building was there before this one, but she said their research showed that it housed Confederate soldiers during the war, and that the little boy was lost during or around the time of the battle. She also said that in the picture that hung in the café of the butcher shop...you can see a Confederate soldier with one leg among the crowd. His hand is outstretched...and it goes right through another person's body. Ooooooo!

She doesn't know what happened to the picture. So there may be other spirits in that building.

--Judy Bland

The ghost photo was stored in the Heritage Council files although the ghostly image uses his arm to hold onto a crutch.

As for the Civil War link to the building, it was built by John Woelpert some forty years after the end of the war. However the question lingered...what was there during the war?

Debbie Donnelly at the Hardin County Clerk's office was willing to trace the deed back and search the records for an answer. According to an April 15, 1868 indenture made between Simon B. Buckner and Mary K Buckner, his wife residents of New Orleans, State of Louisiana and Mary E. Tooke, of the county of Hardin, State of Kentucky, Buckner had held title to the property since December 18, 1860 and a Dr. Geoghegan had occupied a house on the property that ran the length of Main Cross (Dixie Avenue) to Race Alley (Central Street.)

Thanks! How did you ever find that deed? Anyway, I've been researching on the Internet and found some really interesting stuff. Being a historian, you probably know all this already...but...the Simon B. Buckner who deeded the building to Mary E. Tooke was the great Civil War general Simon Bolivar Buckner. He was the father of Mary Elizabeth Buckner, who was married to John A. Tooke. John died in Arkansas in 1858. That's why he's not on the deed. I found out the reason the deed was made in New Orleans was because Gen. Buckner was on parole as a prisoner of war and couldn't come back to Kentucky until 3



Shelly West uncovered this photo taken inside John Woelpert's Butcher Shop around 1909. There appears to be some a partial image of a man on crutches at the counter. The stripe on the pants leg is mostly likely that of that seen on a military uniform.

years after the end of the war. He worked for the newspaper there while waiting to return. When he came back to Kentucky, he was editor of the Louisville Courier until being elected Governor of Ky. in 1887. He died in 1914 and is buried in Frankfort. Mary was born in 1831 and died in 1883, place unknown but I will bet on Main St. in E-town. She and John had two sons: Aylett Buckner Tooke and Edwin Arthur Tooke. Aylett moved to Colorado, but his marriage license is on file at your office and I found it online. Mary's brother, Simon Bolivar Buckner Jr. was the highest ranking officer to be killed in action during WWII. The property was originally deeded to him by his mother, and to her by her father, so it had always been in that family.

Now...I'm thinking maybe this whole Emma and Joshua thing is off. It very well could be that Mary Elizabeth is the ghost. And, the ghost of the Confederate soldier in the picture could be? Probably not the General as he has no head and only one leg.

[A portion of the email has been omitted.]

Now, another favor. Do you think you can find the deed after this one to see who the property went to after Mary E. Tooke? This would take it past the Civil War so far that the Emma, Joshua, Civil War link would not be viable. But I still would love to know if there is an Emma there somewhere.

Thanks again for your help. This is really exciting to find out about all this, ghost or no ghost!

--Judy Bland

Local Civil War historians are intrigued with the ghost but more interested in what the impact of Buckner's ownership of such a large parcel of land near the railroad and Dr. Geoghegan's office on the tract could mean.

In 1861, Union Brig. Gen. Don Carlo Buell's Medical Director, Robert Murray was able to gain consent for the establishment of a convalescent camp or 1,000 near Elizabethtown, Kentucky, a town located along the railroad that connected Nashville with Louisville, enabling these men easily to rejoin their units. Murray also set up a hospital in Elizabethtown [known to be in the Old Severn's Valley Baptist Church building located at the rear of the Brown-Pusey House.] Was this large piece of land in Elizabethtown next to the railroad line that housed a doctor's office confiscated from the Confederate General Buckner for use as the convalescent camp? Two and two, plus a little more research into Civil War records may reveal an interesting history for this piece of property. If ghosts would only talk....

Elizabethtown High's Best All-Around Coach

Before James Pickens became a long-time college coach (serving as head coach of the Hilltopper baseball program for 11 seasons 1966-1976) and administrator at Western Kentucky University, he was a star in both baseball and football as a Western athlete and Elizabethtown High School's best all-around coach.



**J. Pickens
1947 WKU**

Pickens was the All-Ohio Valley Conference quarterback in the OVC's first year of existence (1948) and he was a standout as a defensive back as well.

And, on the diamond, he was an outstanding pitcher for the Hilltoppers. A three-year letterwinner in each sport at Western, he still holds the WKU record for passes intercepted in a game, picking off four Eastern Kentucky throws in a 14-13 Homecoming win over Eastern Kentucky

on Nov. 13, 1948.

Following his career on the Hill, Pickens signed a baseball bonus contract with the Detroit Tigers in 1950. However, a shoulder injury in 1951 cut his playing career short.

He then joined the high school coaching ranks in Kentucky, where he enjoyed an outstanding career as a coach.

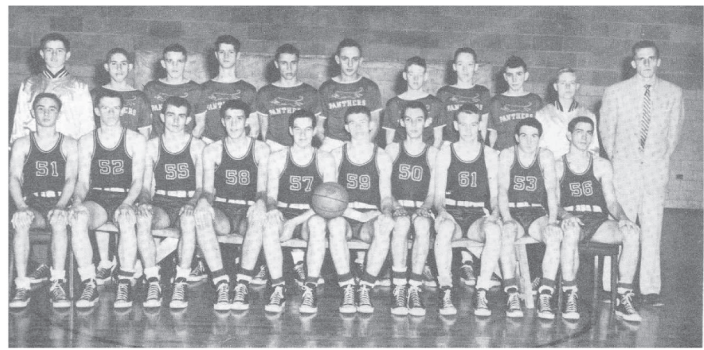
While at Elizabethtown High School, Pickens taught health while coaching basketball, prep football, baseball and track.

"I can tell you that Pickens expected "110%" from his players and told them that," says Judy Cummings French, one of Pickens' students.

"Coach Pickens made his disapproval known when something interfered with his boys and his game or practice," says French who admitted to driving a carload of the Coach's boys around late one night and bore the brunt of his serious displeasure soon afterwards. "He was a strict disciplinarian when it came to his players and expected his rules to be followed to the letter – no matter whom it was or who their parents were. I think that he felt the game was the thing and the rest of his players' lives came second."

"It was my mission and desire to take each of my players to another level, a level where hard work, perseverance, discipline and the will to win and succeed will enhance their athletic achievements of that day and give them a stronger foundation to meet the challenges, frustrations and problems of tomorrow."

-- JAMES PICKENS
1992 Dawahares-Inductees
Kentucky High School
Athletic Association
Sports Hall of Fame



1953 EHS Basketball team with Coach Pickens-back row on right.

After leaving Elizabethtown, Pickens went on to coach high school sports at Danville and Bowling Green before returning to his alma mater in 1966 to take over the Topper baseball program.

During his stint in prep coaching, Pickens earned the Louisville Courier-Journal High School Coach-of-the-Year Award after leading his 1958 Danville High football team to a 9-0-1 record and the state championship. And, he added a state championship in baseball when he directed his 1965 Bowling Green High club to a 32-1 record. His six baseball teams at BGHS won 118 of 138 games (85.5%); and, his overall record as a high school baseball coach was 203-58 (77.8%) over a 14-year span of time. Pickens' 11 Western baseball teams (1966-76) went 180-186-4. His 1973-74 team was the first at Western to win 30 games, going 30-18-1, and his '69 club 17-11 on it's way to an OVC Western Division title.

Following his coaching days on the Hill, Pickens served as assistant director, and later director, of the campus recreation program at Western before retiring in 1989. He was inducted into the Kentucky High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame in 1992 and the WKU Athletic Hall of Fame in 1995.

Pickens passed away at his home in Bowling Green on June 13, 2000. He was 73 years old and had been diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (Lou Gehrig's Disease) on Dec. 31, 1999.

EHS Coach Pickens along side wife, Anna (former WKU Cheerleader) at an athletic banquet while at Elizabethtown.

Photo courtesy of Judy French



E-TOWN'S FIGHT SONG

The music of "Stand Up and Cheer," was written by Paul P. McNeely, who originally composed the score for the "Jayhawks" of the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Kansas during 1909. Since that time the tune has been borrowed by several colleges like the Western Kentucky University Hilltoppers and high schools like EHS.

This pep song with its lively melody is a significant element of the long-standing tradition of Elizabethtown High Athletics. Panther Pride in "Stand Up and Cheer" whether sung by its students or acknowledged by her Alma Mater standing tall as spectators announces her claim to excellence.

Stand Up and Cheer

**Stand up and cheer
Stand up and cheer
For dear old E-town.
For today we raise
The purple and gold
Above the rest
Rah-rah-rah
Our boys are fighting
And we're bound to win the fray
We've got the team
We've got the steam
For this is dear old E-town's day.**

Elizabethtown Boys

<u>Year</u>	<u>Record</u>	<u>Coach</u>
1919-20		
1920-21		
1921-22		John M. Donnelly
1922-23		Silas Hart
1923-24	9-11	Oakley Brown
1924-25	6-13	Oakley Brown
1925-26	8-10	Oakley Brown
1926-27	15-9	Oakley Brown
1927-28	19-7	Oakley Brown
1928-29	19-11	Oakley Brown
1929-30	11-16	Oakley Brown
1930-31		Leslie Perkins
1931-32		Jack Custice
1932-33		Jack Custice
1933-34		Henry Faurest
1934-35		Henry Faurest
1935-36	19-6	Henry Faurest
1936-37	11-7	Henry Faurest
1937-38	3-16	C.E. Morgan
1938-39		C.E. Morgan
1939-40	11-16	C.E. Morgan
1940-41	10-8	C.E. Morgan
1941-42	11-13	C.E. Morgan
1942-43		W.E. Rickerill
1943-44	15-13	E. Wade Weldon
1944-45	17-10	Doug R. Smith
1945-46	16-8	Doug R. Smith
1946-47	12-15	Doug R. Smith
1947-48	17-10	Doug R. Smith
1948-49		Doug R. Smith
1949-50	15-9	Doug R. Smith
1950-51	19-9	Ed Hane
1951-52		Owen Riddle, Jr.
1952-53	11-7	James Pickens
1953-54		James Pickens
1954-55	14-9	James Pickens
1955-56	4-11	James Pickens
1956-57	13-12	James Pickens
1957-58	20-13	Charlie Rawlings
1958-59	18-13	Charlie Rawlings
1959-60	16-10	Charlie Rawlings
1960-61	13-12	Charlie Rawlings
1961-62	19-7	Charlie Rawlings
1962-63	14-11	Charlie Rawlings
1963-64	19-7	Charlie Rawlings
1964-65	26-6	Charlie Rawlings
1965-66	23-6	Charlie Rawlings
1966-67	24-5	Charlie Rawlings
1967-68	27-5	Charlie Rawlings
1968-69	13-16	Charlie Rawlings
1969-70	14-10	Charlie Rawlings
1970-71	15-8	Ray Vencill, Jr.
1971-72	31-4	Ray Vencill, Jr.
1972-73	19-10	Ray Vencill, Jr.
1973-74	19-5	Ray Vencill, Jr.
1974-75	20-8	Ray Vencill, Jr.
1975-76	23-5	Ray Vencill, Jr.
1976-77	24-2	Ray Vencill, Jr.
1977-78	16-9	Ray Vencill, Jr.
1978-79	12-12	Roy Woolum
1979-80	11-16	Roy Woolum
1980-81	12-11	Roy Woolum
1981-82	16-8	David Rogers
1982-83	15-11	Gary French
1983-84	11-13	Gary French
1984-85	22-6	Gary French

Elizabethtown Boys

<u>Year</u>	<u>Record</u>	<u>Coach</u>
1985-86	25-4	Gary French
1986-87	12-15	Gary French
1987-88	20-5	Gary French
1988-89	15-10	Gary French
1989-90	25-5	Gary French
1990-91	13-10	Gary French
1991-92	2-24	Gary French
1992-93	8-18	Gary French
1993-94	12-12	Gary French
1994-95	13-10	Gary French
1995-96	2-21	James Haire
1996-97	15-10	James Haire
1997-98	20-9	James Haire
1998-99	21-7	James Haire
1999-2000	30-5	James Haire
2000-01	14-12	James Haire
2001-02	26-5	James Haire
2002-03	28-3	James Haire
2003-04	26-5	James Haire
2004-05	27-5	James Haire
2005-06	28-4	James Haire
2006-07	17-11	James Haire
2007-08	16-12	James Haire

Elizabethtown Girls

<u>Year</u>	<u>Record</u>	<u>Coach</u>
1974-75	3-10	Bob Shearer
1975-76	4-13	Bob Shearer
1976-77	3-18	Bob Shearer
1977-78	4-15	Bob Shearer
1978-79	13-8	Bob Shearer
1979-80	16-8	Bob Shearer
1980-81	26-3	Bob Shearer
1981-82	25-2	Bob Shearer
1982-83	6-18	Bob Shearer
1983-84	7-16	Bob Shearer
1984-85	8-12	Bob Shearer
1985-86	7-18	Bob Shearer
1986-87	4-19	Leon Blair
1987-88	4-20	Jim Wallace
1988-89	13-13	Jim Wallace
1989-90	16-10	Jim Wallace
1990-91	9-18	Jim Wallace
1991-92	11-15	Jim Wallace
1992-93	12-11	Jim Wallace
1993-94	10-17	Jim Wallace
1994-95	16-9	Tim Mudd
1995-96	26-3	Tim Mudd
1996-97	35-3	Tim Mudd
1997-98	29-3	Tim Mudd
1998-99	16-12	Tim Mudd
1999-2000	26-6	Tim Mudd
2000-01	19-10	Tim Mudd
2001-02	19-9	Tim Mudd
2002-03	19-8	Tim Mudd
2003-04	26-6	Tim Mudd
2004-05	19-6	Tim Mudd
2005-06	27-7	Tim Mudd
2006-07	27-6	Tim Mudd
2007-08	28-8	Tim Mudd

*Elizabethtown High School Basketball
Win/Loss Coaching History
Courtesy of Ron Bevars*

Small Stretch of East Dixie Once Busy With Trade

Photos courtesy of Archie Hawkins

1904

ELIZABETHTOWN MILLING COMPANY

The business known as the Elizabethtown Milling Company was commissioned on April 30, 1889 with a Board of Directors that consisted of Conrad Hotopp, W. C. Montgomery, W. G. Singleton, George W. White, C. W. McCague, A. V. Kennedy and William Williams. The general nature of the business of the corporations was outlined as buying and selling of wheat, manufacturing and selling of flour and the buying and selling coal.

Mr. Hotopp was the acting president of Elizabethtown Milling Company as well as the Elizabethtown Bank, owner of a large shoe business in the city with capital invested into several other businesses in Elizabethtown and Hardin County including Elizabethtown Canning Company and Hardin County Publishing.

By 1909, the Elizabethtown Milling Company located on the Dixie between the railroad tracts (326 East Dixie) was once again incorporated by Conrad Hotopp, Robert W. Cates, John L. Helm, Sallie Clark, Fannie Z. Robertson, Myra E. Ash, W.C. Montgomery, Lucinda Kennedy, Mary L. Kennedy, William Williams and John H. Hart. Business conducted at the large mill included the buying and selling of grain, grain products, feed and coal and the manufacture and sale of flour, meal and all meal products. It was a successful operation for many years.

The building was demolished in the 60s.

1922

HAWKINS GROCERY

W. J. "Pete" Hawkins began this operation at the corner of East Dixie and the alley that ran to Brown's Ice Cream.

After getting out of the grocery business, Hawkins operated a dress shop across the street from this site just prior to the Depression.



Left to right: Perry Harris, Iv Starks, unidentified man #1, William Jackson "Pete" Hawkins leaning on post, seated on wagon, Delivery Man-Frank Hawkins (William's brother), Peanuts McGee, unidentified man #2, unidentified man #3.



Left to right: Lillian Mayer, Mag Burnett, Archie Hawkins, and owner, William Jackson "Pete" Hawkins.

Message From The President

History with its flickering lamp stumbles along the trail of the past, trying to reconstruct its scenes, to revive its echoes, and kindle with pale gleams the passion of former days.

- Winston Churchill

A history lover by choice and prognosticator by luck, I envision by the time you are reading this we will have bailed out everything that needed to be bailed out and will be fully settled enough to enjoy an evening with friends. In addition to a wonderful speaker who I will laud momentarily, we will be discussing such offbeat topics as: a historical version of "Pick a card, any card", our plan for "Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grader?" (you will need to be to earn our first annual Scholarship), a quick "did you know?" of Kentucky's past, the HCHS Book Club, and a salute to a five year-old of much acclaim.

You will also have the opportunity to increase your knowledge about one of the darkest and most difficult times in our country's history. Doug Cantrell, local Elizabethtown Community and Technical College Professor, will be joining us with a discussion on the events leading up to and subsequently causing the outbreak of the Civil War. A frequent speaker on both this topic as well as scholar on the immigration and naturalization movements in Eastern Kentucky, Mr. Cantrell will be sharing a view of the complex economic causes of this costly battle.

Please join us in welcoming Mr. Cantrell to our quarterly meeting and invite a guest to join you. I look forward to seeing you all there!

- Jeff Lanz

Serving Up a Hearty Helping at the Silver Spoon Cafe

One of the better eateries in Elizabethtown during the 40s and 50s was none other than the Silver Spoon Cafe located at 134 East Dixie Avenue.

"It was a really nice place, a fancy dining establishment that held maybe 75 to 100," says Alma Jean Dailey who worked as a waitress at the Silver Moon for a time in the mid 50s when Eldon and Helen Baker ran the business.

"It was the Whistle Stop Restaurant of the day for Elizabethtown," added Dailey who remembered the good food that could be obtained during the breakfast, lunch and dinner hours.

Right: Notice the reflection of the business across East Dixie from the cafe in the window.

Left: Behind the Silver Moon Waitresses is the Walker & Miller delivery wagon.

Photos courtesy of Archie Hawkins



In the days before big chain supermarkets, Elizabethtown had several successful grocers. One of those in operation before the smaller merchants era came to a close was that of Walker & Miller.

J. B. Walker and John Miller operated their grocery and delivery service from 136-138 East Dixie Avenue.

Walker owned the business houses and lots at that address as well as that of the Silver Moon Cafe.

Historical Society announces next meeting



Doug Cantrell

The Hardin County Historical Society will meet Monday evening, October 27, 2008, 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 Regina Lancaster at 765-6700 before Sunday, October 26th, for dinner reservations; later reservations for the meal cannot be guaranteed.

A program, *The Impending Conflict: Events Leading to the Civil War*, will follow the dinner at 7:00 p.m. The presenter will be local professor and noted historian Doug Cantrell. The author of six books and multiple articles and book reviews, Cantrell will lead us through major events from 1819 until 1860, all of which played a part in the outbreak of the American Civil War; these will include the Missouri Compromise, Mexican War, Dred Scott Supreme Court Case, Harpers Ferry Raid, the Lincoln-Douglas debates and the election of President Lincoln himself.

His discussion will emphasize that the critical issue that brought on the Civil War was the spread of slavery into the western territories of the United States. Cantrell will also discuss that part of the conflict over slavery involved control of the federal government for economic reasons. The South, which remained agricultural, needed influence in the Federal Government to block legislation that would benefit the North's manufacturing economy, while the North wanted control over the Federal Government to easily enact legislation to enhance northern industry.

HARDIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
POST OFFICE BOX 381
ELIZABETHTOWN, KY 42702