

Bits and Pieces of *Hardin County History* Published by the *Hardin County Historical Society*

Vol. III No. 1

Robert Beimdick, Editor

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A LETTER OF LOCAL INTEREST by R. Gerald McMurtry

In the Abraham Lincoln papers of the Library of Congress, there is an interesting letter addressed to the President from Eli Metcalf Bruce dated October 6, 1863, and mailed from Madison, Georgia. The letter brings to Lincoln the tragic news of the death of his Confederate brother-in-law, Gen. Ben Hardin Helm, who fell on the Chickamauga battlefield on the morning of September 20, 1863. However, President Lincoln had already received unconfirmed reports of the death of Gen. Helm shortly after the battle.

The letter follows:

Madison Ga Oct. 6, 1863

Hon Abraham Lincoln
President of the United States
Washington D C

At the instance of Mrs. E T Helm it becomes my painful duty to announce to you the death of General Ben. Hardin Helm--your Brother-in-law--and although opposed, as he was, to your forces, it will no doubt be a satisfaction to you to know that he fell at the head of his Brigade--honorably battling for the cause he thought just and righteous--he was leading his "Kentucky Brigade" to a charge which was successful and for daring and results is unprecedented in ancient or modern warfare--even in this terrible war--as the result and fruits of that charge was the capture of not only a Battery, but a mass of artillery, at least 30 pieces, with very many prisoners--and I know you can but admire him for his deeds, and will regret that he could not have survived the conflict, and shared in the glories of the victory--

Mrs. Helm is crushed by the blow--almost broken hearted--and desires to return to her Mother and friends in Kentucky--indeed, this is a necessity, as you must be aware that her means are very small and expenses of living in the South much more than in the United States--she is now at my house in this place--and it will afford me pleasure to minister to her wants and comfort so long as it may be agreeable for her to remain under my roof, mean time she asks that you order the war department to send her a pass to enter the Federal truce boat at City Point--and would suggest that you send triplicates, say, one to me here, one to care Col Wm Preston Johnston Richmond, and one to Mrs. Helm here, by different Boats--

Would also be obliged if you would send at the same time a pass for Mrs Bruce and her sister--Mrs Hutchinson--

(cont'd. p.11)

SOCIETY'S OFFICERS

PRESIDENT-Mrs. T. D. Winstead
1st VICE PRESIDENT-Mrs. Jesse Williams
2nd VICE PRESIDENT-Mr. James Scudder
SECRETARY-Ms. Rena L. Parks
TREASURER-Mrs. June Thornberry

THE HISTORY AND EARLY YEARS OF PLEASANT GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

BY Beatrice Crady
Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, located in the Knob Creek, area of Larue County, was constituted in September, 1852. Mrs. Crady's book follows its history through the church's minute books. Included are membership lists from 1852-1980. There is also a current cemetery list. Paperback, 51pp., some photographs. Price: \$6.00+\$1.25 postage. Order from Mrs. Beatrice Crady, 348 Maple Ave., Hodgenville, Ky. 42748

1860 BULLITT COUNTY CENSUS copied by Pat Dodson and Joan Wright. 5,800 names, 144pp., 8 1/2x11, softbound, indexed. Price: \$12.00+5%Ky. Sales Tax + \$1.00 postage. Order from Pat Dodson, Box 317 Wilderness Road, Brooks, Ky. 40109

QUERIES

JACKSON, SPENCER

Seeking info on parents of Isaac Jackson b. c. 1797 in Va. m. 31 Jan 1822 in Bullitt Co. Matilda Spencer. Isaac possibly in Hardin Co. in 1820 at Little Y. Mrs. Mary R. Gerlach, 860 Fetter Ave., Louisville, Ky. 40217

BAKER, ALLISON

Wanted any info on Solomon Hardy Baker b. Dec. 1811 in Ky. m. c. 1840 Isabella "Sibby" Allison from Hardin Co., Tenn. John H. Gallien, D.D.S., 903 College St., Savannah, Tenn. 38372

TIDBIT

Larry Hardin, 408 W. Van Buren, Gallatin, Mo. 64640, sent us the following list of defenders of Hardin's Fort (Hardinsburg):

Christopher Bush	Joseph Toby	Daniel Meredith
Barger	Richard Stephens	Payne
John Jolly	Samuel Spencer	Taul
William Weatherholt	James Jennings	Shively
Mordecai Lincoln	Brashear	Haynes
Ben Comstock	Carlyle	William McDaniels
Archibald Lochard	Miller	Charles Hambleton
Claycomb	Ben Huff	(Cont'd. p. 12)

OUR GERMAN CONNECTION by Elmo McClure (continued)

Mrs. Fred Raubold's sister, Lizzie Betz, married Andrew Depp, another local merchant. Mr. Depp bought from George M. Miles a three story building on the corner of the Public Square (In 1887 it was destroyed by fire, replaced with a two-story structure and used for some years by the old Bank of Elizabethtown and in more recent years by drug stores and presently by a real estate firm.) Mr. Depp is said to have served in the Mexican War and to have been wounded in the head.

Joe Raubold, a brother and Henry Raubold, a nephew, also came to America and settled here. Joe was a shoe maker as were many of the German immigrants. Henry was a partner with Civil War veteran John Heller in the confectionery business. Heller married Miss Mary Rihn and moved to Cecilia where he operated a hotel.

Conrad Hotopp, born May 24, 1832 in the State of Hanover, Germany, came to the United States at the age of twenty-one. He came to Elizabethtown in 1859 and entered the shoe and boot business. He soon had several employees and his business prospered. He then opened several business houses but he suffered great losses in the fire of August 7, 1869. He rebuilt his burned property and accumulated considerable assets.

During the 1870's, Mr. Hotopp purchased the banking business of L. M. Longshaw, out of which grew the old Bank of Elizabethtown. He was president of that organization and later of the First Hardin National Bank, its eventual outgrowth. He was a leader in the successful effort to establish a public school in Elizabethtown and served on the town's board of trustees and the City Council when the water works and electric lights were installed in town.

Mr. Hotopp married Miss Elizabeth Scheurer. One of their daughters, Katie, married Robert W. Cates. Two of the Cateses' children, Conrad H. Cates and Alice Cates Wade still reside in Elizabethtown.

Adam Beeler (spelled Bihler in Germany) was born June 28, 1835, in Wurtemberg, Germany, and died January 3, 1897, in Elizabethtown. He came to Elizabethtown in 1859, followed his butcher's trade, and operated a successful provision store and sausage factory on present West Dixie Avenue, a few doors east of the old News corner at Mulberry Street. He also suffered great losses in the fire of 1869. He too rebuilt and continued his popular operation until his death. His only son, Clarence, then managed the business until his death in 1902 when the store was purchased by Jacob S. Patterson and continued by him until he moved to his farm some years later.

Adam Beeler had an only brother, Jacob, who came here in 1881. He became a farmer and resided on the Old Rineyville Road. His descendants still live in the area.

E.M.

DUES FOR 1982 ARE NOW DUE. Send them (\$5.00) to Mrs. June Thornberry, 128 N. Main St., Elizabethtown, Ky. 42701 Those not paid by the next issue of B&P will be dropped from the mailing list.

ELIZABETHTOWN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES, 1797

At a board of the Trustees of Elizabeth Town in the County of Hardin begun and held at the House of Mr. James Crutcher on Wednesday the fourth of October 1797 agreeable to an Act of Assembly entitled an Act for establishing Towns passed the 19th of December 1796. And in conformity to an order of the Court For said County made on motion of Andrew Hynes Esq proprietor of said Town

Present John Vertrees Stephen Rawlings Benj Helm James Crutcher Armstead Churchill & Isaac Morrison Members

The Board then proceeded to elect John Vertrees Esq chairman and Isaac Morrison was appointed clerk-

Ordered that the bounds of the Town be ascertained and plainly marked as soon as possible and that Benjamin Helm do this business and make return thereof to the board at their next meeting--

Ordered that the clerk proceed immediately to Advertise the sale of the lots of said Town On the first Tuesday in December next at The Court House in said Town and that the Advertisement be put up at the door of the Court House And that the dementions of the House made with a brick or stone chimney with a shingled Roof At least sixteen feet by eighteen in the clear And that they be erected as above described In two years from this date of the purchase The Houses to be of Stone Brick Frame or Hewed Logs--

Ordered that the inhabitants of the Town within Two months from this date clear out the two Main Streets thereof the one beginning at Mr Samuel Haycraft and Berrys Mill Extending to the south west corner the other beginning at Mr Haycrafts line and extending to the Lower end of Joseph Enlows Lott, and that Mr Benjamin Helm Do superintend the above business--

Ordered that the Bord adjourn untill The first Tuesday in December next--
John Vertreese ck

LARUE COUNTY, KENTUCKY CEMETERIES VOL. I by Edward Benningfield

Larue County was formed in 1843 from Hardin County. It adjoins the counties of Hardin, Nelson, Marion, Taylor, Green, and Hart. Information for this book was carefully gathered and compiled from 70 cemeteries. Location, description and some history is included on the cemeteries. Maps, photos and an index make this a well-rounded book of great value to anyone interested in the history and genealogy of Larue Co. Softbound, 181 pages. Book will be available by 15 Apr. 1982. Price BEFORE 1 April 1982 Price AFTER 1 Apr. 1982

Non exempt Kentucky residents	\$13.60 ppd	\$16.95ppd
All others	\$12.95 ppd	\$15.95ppd

Order from: Edward Benningfield, Route 2, Box 265, Campbells-ville, Ky. 42718

VALLEY CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH MEMBERSHIP LIST (continued)

James Bonner	Nannie Bush	Dellie Adams-Hall
Thomas Morris	Mollie Penick	Mallie Adams
James T. Irwin	Bell Mann-Riggins	Benjamin Adams
William Harris	Matilda Clark	Nannie Horn
George Cecil	Florence Cecil	Sudie Ash
Joseph Ballinger	d. 14 June 1905	Mattie Kirtley
Robert Strange	Lidicia Katie Howey-	Wayne Wright
Almira E. Rogers	Tabb	Marvin Wright
Allie Willett	Mary E. Perciful-	Edmund Carliss
Lucy Coyle	Dunn d. 1902	James Hagan
Susan Ballinger	Cora Perciful-Carter	George Hagan
M. C. Foley	Almeda Perciful	Willie Hagan
Marthia Foley	d. 7 Jan. 1893	Malachi Gardner
Joan Rogers	James A. Perciful Jr.	Sinia Cecil
Laura Corum	Willie Hall	d. 12 Feb. 1901
Joshua Brown	Feranna Hall	Thomas Horn
Ethel Percell	Maudan Hall	James McClure
Mary Bailey	Wilson LaRue	W. T. Fisher
Charlie Sherrared	Eddie Hawkins	J. M. Fisher
David G. Miller	Mary Hawkins	Ellen Fisher
Rebecca Miller	Walter Cecil	Harry Cranmer
Ida B. Miller	Annie Reynolds	Harley Horn
Minnie D. Miller	Alice Reynolds-	Annie Cook
Elizabeth Miller-	Johnson	David Goodin
Brooks	Willie Nall	R. K. Bethel
James W. Bush	Amy Gardner-Devers	Rev. R. C. Kimble
Elias J. Russell	Lizzie Rogers	Lula Kimble
Lizzie Russell	Elizabeth Bobs	Samuel Nall
Mary A. Tabb	Bettie Allen	John Strange
Sallie Irwin-	Isabell Perciful-	Mary Morris
Richardson	Larue	Annie Read-Nall
Virgil H. Irwin	Thomas Rogers	Annie B. Allen
C. R. Bunnell	Harvie Goodin	Hattie Read
James H. Bunnell	Federick Brown	Birdie Nall
Matilda A. Bunnell-	Minnie Brown-	Elmer J. Bruner
Irwin	Ballinger	Naomi Bruner
Ralph Vestal	Rebecca Ballinger	Ruth Abell
Frank Vestal	d. 2 Oct. 1902	Liddia Abell-Hicks
Ida Irwin -Williams	Susan T. Ballinger-	Jennie Abell-
Elizabeth Johnson	Harris	Hazelwood
James McMillin	Sanford Ballinger	Alice Abell
John McMillin	Nancy Joseph Harris	Frank Abell Jr.
James W. Miller	Louisa Ballinger-	Cis Ann Carter
Van Hawkins	Cutwright	Annie Sorry
Lucy Rogers	Stella Bradford	Joseph Sorry
Nora Bradford	d. 22 Mar. 1900	Blake Sorry
d. 21 Apr. 1905	Lonnie Berry	Henry Sorry
Thomas Ash	Della Howey	Sallie Sorry
Henry C. Perry	George Sutton	Maude Howey
Bell Bush	Wm. Leaman	
Joseph Lee	Adda Price-Searcy	

(to be continued)

COURT ORDER BOOK, HARDIN COUNTY, KENTUCKY, 1794

At a Court held for Hardin County on Tuesday the twenty-eighth of October one thousand seven hundred and ninety four. Present: Patrick Brown John Vertrees and Bladin Ashby Gentlemen Justices

Ordered that Stephen Rawlings be appointed over seer of the Road from Middle Creek to the Crossing of the Valley Creek in the room of Jacob Vanmeter and that all the Tithables that assisted said Vanmeter do assist him in Clearing and keeping the same in repair...

A deed from Hananeah Lincoln to Robert Mosley for two In Lots No. 90 and 91 and two out Lots was acknowledged by the said Hananeah and was ordered to be recorded...

Robert Mosleys Ear Mark is as follows Towit a Crop and a slit in the left Ear and an under bit in the right Ear and was ordered to be recorded...

Ordered that the Sheriff pay John Paul twelve pound fourteen shillings for money paid for Record Books as pr receipts and for Traveling and Expences in bringing the same from Lexington Together with his Ex officio fees for the year one thousand (seven hundred) ninety three paper and soforth...

Ordered that the Sheriff pay Isaac Morrison Clerk of the Court of quarter sessions two pound ten shillings for his Ex Officio fees for the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety-three...

A deed from Philip Philips to William Nourse for seven hundred acres of Land was proved by the oaths of James Nourse Isaac Morrison and Isaac Hynes Subscribing witnesses thereto and ordered to be recorded...

Upon the Complaint of Rachael Cartor and William Hobson

Ordered that Robert Mosley be summoned to appear here at the next court to answer the Complaint of Rachael Carter for the misuse of her sons Moses and William Burnet apprentices to the said Rober and that he suffer them to appear here at the said Court to make good the Complaint as aforesaid and do not mis use the said apprentice on that account...

The despositions of James Nourse George Madison and John Helm taken before Thomas Helm Esqr. purporting the value of certain lands are ordered to be certified...

Jacob Vanmeter Ear mark is as follows Towit a Crop and an under bit in the left Ear and the same is ordered to be Recorded...

Capt. Jacob Vanmeter Ear Mark is as follows a Crop and a an under bit in the left ear...

Ordered that the County Levy be laid at the next Court and that the sheriff give publick Notice there of...

Ordered that it be entered that Patrick Brown and John Vertrees who were appointed to settle with Sheriff attended according to order but the sheriff failed to attend...

Benjamin Helm gent produced a Commission under the hand and seal of his Excelincy Isaac Shelby Gov appointing him surveyor of this County who together with Thomas Helm his security entered into and acknowledged their bond in the

penalty of one thousand pounds for the faithful performance of the said office and thereupon took the oath of surveyor...

A Bond from George Clous Junior to George Clouse Senior was acknowledged and ordered to be recorded...

A Bond from George Clouse Junior to George Highbaugh and Margaret Clouse was acknowledged and ordered to be recorded...

A deed from George Clouse Senior and Elizabeth his wife for three hundred acres of land was acknowledged by the said George Clouse Senior and was ordered to be Recorded...

A Bond from George Clous Senior to John Clouse was acknowledged and ordered to be recorded...

A bill of sale from George Clous Senior to George and John Clouse was acknowledged and was Ordered to be recorded...

A bill of Sale from George Clouse Senior to George Clous Junior was acknowledged and ordered to be recorded...

Ordered that the Sheriff pay Isaac Larue twelve pound sixteen shillings for building the County Jail...

The Sheriff is allowed to pay himself six pound five shillings for his Extra services for the year 1793 and eight shillings for furnishing a ticket box for the use of the Election for said year...

Ordered that Court be adjourned until Court in Course to be held at this place. P Brown

MORE ABOUT PITTS POINT

Pitts Point on the Salt River in Hardin County was once a well-known town. It was named for three brothers, Archibald, Thomas and Robert Pitt. They and their wives came from Georgetown, Maryland, in 1796. Settling on the Salt River, they operated saw mills there for many years. The town grew rapidly and during the Civil War a Military Academy was located in the town.

Like many small towns of that area, Pitts Point was swallowed up when Camp Knox (Fort Knox) Military Reservation was established in 1916. Several dilapidated old houses are all that now remains of Pitts Point. G.W.

EARLIEST RACE TRACK IN HARDIN COUNTY

The first record of a race track in Hardin County is contained in the minutes of the Severns Valley Baptist Church, dated 22 October 1802. The entry reads: "Some of the members informed the church of Brother John Haycraft's misconduct in riding his horse around the race ground."

G.W.

REMEMBER Whenever you answer or make a query of someone and you expect an answer you should include a stamped, self-addressed envelope for the reply.

TORNADO, 1890 reported by Mrs. Hazel Miller, Somerset, Ky.

"It was the most severe torando that ever struck Louisville before or since. The March day (27th) had been unseasonably warm, around 70 degrees, but nobody dreamed that death and destruction hovered over us. My mother has told me many particulars of the storm, but I was old enough to remember much of them. The all-day rain turned heavy shortly after dark, accompanied by a high wind from the south and enormous hailstones. Then a peculiar stillness occurred as a magnificent electrical display stabbed the intense darkness. The smell of brimstone was in the air and lightning played on the ground like balls of fire.

Then came the roar fearful to hear. After the hiatus of the storm the temperature suddenly dropped to around 39°. The air was filled with a peculiar haze and the moon looked red as blood. Falls City Hall collapsed as a ball was in progress and many were killed. The depot at Seventh and River and many schools, churches, factories, homes and warehouses were destroyed. My mother took me to the hospital where her brother was taken with a fractured arm, six broken ribs and a severed ear. His ear was restored by surgery.

Over at Rineyville, Ky., my mother's great aunt and her husband, Mr. Pauley owned a farm on the edge of town. They lived in a stone house on the brow of the hill overlooking Pauley Creek. In the creek bottom they had a log house where the tenants lived. The evening of the storm many neighbors crowded into the log house. They were frightened to death, some weeping, some praying, some convinced the Day of Judgement had arrived. One man said he was going up to the "Big House" where it was safer. He went. The tornado hit the stone house, demolished it and the occupants were killed. But the cabin below came through safe and sound. Over by Blue Ball Hill there was a colored settlement known as Perryville. There the wind picked up a little colored baby, carried it more than four miles, and laid it on the edge of a well near Rineyville. The baby was found, safe and sound, the next morning."

G.W.

FAMILY CONNECTIONS

The response to the call for members willing to share family information with others has been gratifying. If you wish to participate, send your families' names including county names if you go beyond Hardin Co. along with your complete name and address to Bob Beimdick, Rt. 1, Box 278, Elizabethtown, Ky. 42701 We will begin publishing the info we have in the April issue.

Kentucky's motto: "United we stand, divided we fall."

BEN HELM; BAREFOOT BOY MAKES GOOD

On Christmas Day, 1780, Ben Helm, intrepid thirteen year old son of pioneer Thomas Helm, walked barefoot from his father's fort in Severns Valley (Elizabethtown) to the Falls of the Ohio (Louisville) to obtain salt. For most of the year, it would have been a risky journey because of marauding Indians but the Indians seldom bothered the settlements after Indian summer in late November. Therefore, it was relatively safe for the daring young man to walk the 45 miles to the nearest town.

Ben Helm was born May 8, 1767 in Prince William County, Virginia and came with his parents, Thomas and Jean Pope Helm and their large family and numerous slaves to the Valley Creek Settlement in 1780. Thomas Helm built a large fort on land granted him by the state of Virginia, one of the three forts in the area, on the hill now occupied by the mansion built by his grandson, Governor John L. Helm.

Young Helm shared all the hardships endured by the first pioneers, early learning to use a gun for hunting and for defense against the Indians. He saw the establishment of the first church in the territory when it was constituted June 17, 1781. It was called the Regular Baptist Church of Severns Valley.

Helm also saw Kentucky made a county of Virginia in 1785 and then established as a state in 1792. A year later a large area surrounding Severns Valley was made into Hardin County. At the first term of the County Court, under a Commission from Governor Shelby, Helm qualified as the first surveyor and was the first to survey the town.

He was present the 4th of July, 1797, when the town was established and he became one of the first trustees. Helm probably watched as Thomas Lincoln helped Samuel Haycraft, Sr. build the first mill in Elizabethtown. However, it isn't likely he noticed or was even aware of the birth of Lincoln's son, Abraham on February 12, 1809.

In June, 1799, Helm served as Clerk pro tempore of Quarter Sessions Court, then as Clerk of the Circuit Court.

Ben Helm was a busy man and an important citizen of Elizabethtown. He must have had matrimony in mind when in 1801, a brick yard was opened and the word went around that he intended to build a fine brick house. He was "the first citizen to have the means and enterprise to undertake such an improvement." On May 17, 1803, Benjamin Helm married a comely widow, Mrs. Mary Edwards Whittaker. She was a sister of Governor Ninian Edwards of Illinois. They were two of the most popular people in town and their home was a meeting place of all the most prominent citizens and important visitors.

Helm knew the famous ornithologist and artist, John James Audubon who, with his partner a Mr. Rozier, operated a store in Elizabethtown. Helm and his partner and brother-in-law, General Duff Green, were merchants too for many years.

In addition Helm was a prosperous and successful farmer and became the wealthiest and most prominent man in the county. He was a trustee of the Hardin Academy for forty years.

Ben Helm served in the War of 1812 and was afterwards referred to as Major Helm. Later in 1812, He built the large brick mansion at 238 Helm Street, the present home of Mr. and Mrs. Horace Bird.

As Circuit Clerk, Helm witnessed the unsuccessful efforts of James Buchanan, later 15th President of the United States, to establish a law practice in Elizabethtown in 1813.

In 1818 as authorized by the Kentucky Legislature, an independent bank was organized with a capital stock of \$100,000.00 and Major Helm became its first president. He served from 1828 to 1829 as Master of Morrison Lodge No. 76, F & A.M. He also helped finance and build the first Methodist Church in 1832.

Major and Mrs. Helm had at least three children: Henry B. Helm, who inherited the Helm Street house, Mary Ann, who died young in 1839, and Emily E. Helm. Major Helm died 24 February 1858 in his 91st year.

G.W.

GENEALOGY INFORMATION AVAILABLE

On file at the Hardin County Historical Library in the Brown Pusey House in Elizabethtown are many family folders. Many contain valuable genealogical information on that family.

Anyone wishing to obtain this information may send a Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope to Hardin County Historical Society, 128 North Main St., Elizabethtown, Ky. 42701. If you wish copies of the information, each page or copy will cost 25¢. Following is a list of the family folders on file:

Abell	Baskett	Briscoe	Cissell
Adams	Beavers	Brown	Clagett
Adkins	Bell-Witten	Brownfield	Clevidence
Allen	Bennett	Brownson	Chism
Anderson	Berry	Buchanan	Churchill
Angel	Bewley	Buckles	Cofer-Coffer
Archibald	Biddlecome	Burch	Coffman
Armour	Bird	Burkhart	Cole
Arnold	Blair	Bush	Coleman
Artman	Bland	Butler	Colvin
Ash	Boone	Carmichael	Compton
Ashby	Booner	Carr	Collard
Ashcraft	Bond	Carlton	Cook
Atherton	Borders	Carson	Combs
Atterbury	Botts	Carson	Corbett
Austin	Bowman	Carter	Cowley
Bale-Kersey	Brandenburg	Cash	Cox
Bartimuss	Braselton	Casteel	Coy
Bartmess	Brashear	Catlett	Crady (To be cont'd)
Bartlett	Brent	Chowning	Crawford-Young

(LETTER cont'd from page 1)

to accompany Mrs Helm to Kentucky, their father having recently died leaving their mother in a very desolate condition--and thereby relieve the war of much of its stern rigor--

Mrs Helm desires to be affectionately remembered to her sister--

I have the honor to be, Sir--

Very Respectfully

Yr obt Servt

EM Bruce

I once knew you personally--refer to Mr Wm P. Dole and Mr Usher

E. M. Bruce was an ardent Kentucky supporter of the Confederacy, played an active role in the supply of the Southern government, held a seat in the Confederate Congress and was active in the exportation of cotton and in the investment of personal funds for the benefit of the Richmond government.

His real reason for writing to Lincoln was to secure a pass for Mrs. Helm (a half-sister of Mrs. Lincoln) to return to Kentucky. Bruce was not the only one who wrote Lincoln concerning the bereaved (but unreconstructed) widow. At the suggestion of former Governor John L. Helm, Mrs. Todd (her mother) acted through the Lexington postmaster, Dr. L. Beecher Todd, a cousin of Mrs. Lincoln, who asked for permission to go to Georgia to bring Emilie and her two grandchildren home to Lexington. Lincoln gave orders for such a pass for Mrs. Todd on October 15, 1863, and a pass for Mrs. Helm to return to Lexington on December 14, 1863.

Due to Emilie's refusal to take the oath of allegiance to the United States, her trip home was diverted by way of Washington, D.C., with a visit with the Lincolns in the Executive Mansion. She eventually returned to Lexington but that is another story.

Some of the principle characters in this little narrative should be of considerable interest to Elizabethtown and Hardin County readers. While General Ben Hardin Helm, a grandson of the famous Kentucky lawyer Ben Hardin, was born in Bardstown, he is buried in Elizabethtown. His father, an Elizabethtown resident, was John L. Helm, twice governor of Kentucky. General Helm's wife was Emilie Todd, a daughter of Robert S. Todd of Lexington and a half-sister of Mrs. Abraham Lincoln. As a widow, Emilie was appointed postmistress of Elizabethtown by President Chester A. Arthur, an office she retained for about twelve years.

Eli Metcalf Bruce also merits considerable study as he looms large in the annals of Kentucky's role in the struggle for the establishment of the Confederacy.

NOTE: Mr. McMurtry, a noted Lincoln historian and scholar, is a native of Elizabethtown and was the first Secretary-Treasurer of the Hardin County Historical Society. He presently resides in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

HARDIN'S FORT cont'd.

William Kelso	William Luce	Adam Barr
Samuel Crawford	John Bruner	Hardaway
Horace Merry	Henry Dean	Rice
William Perrin	John Faith	Lampton
George Robards	Edgar Pate	

HARDIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BITS & PIECES
128 NORTH MAIN STREET
ELIZABETHTOWN, KY. 42701



Mrs. Martha McFadden
Rt. 7, Bx 185
City
42701