
Bits and Pieces

of Hardin County History

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MARY JO JONES, EDITOR

SUMMER 2000

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF ELIZABETHTOWN

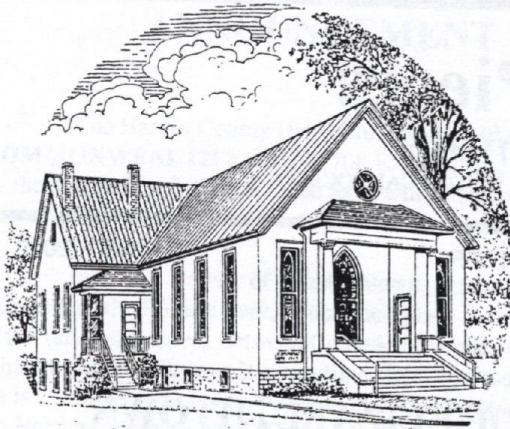


Christian Church - ca. 1881 - 1917
(Courtesy Carl Howell, Jr.)

In 1921, according to H. A. Sommers' *History of Elizabethtown*, "The Church of the Disciples, generally called the Christian Church, is the youngest religious organization in the town, . . ." The church was formally organized in September 1878 in the home of Mrs. Eliza Vertrees (now 206 W. Poplar St.). Charter members were Mrs. Vertrees, Martha Ann Poston, Mary J. Helm, J. W. Bowling, Fannie Bowling, Mary Bowling, Jennie Bowling, James Watson, Mary Bell Watson, Elizabeth Perry, Mary K. Medcalf, Matilda B. Runner, Henry L. Edlin, Maggie Williams, Elizabeth Oliver, Frank Spencer, Nettie Morris, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Hawkins, N. W. Blackburn, Mrs. Joshua E. Moore, Mrs. Susan Arnett, Samuel L. Hodgen, and Ann E. Hodgen. Rev. William Taylor was the first pastor, serving from 1878 until 1882.

The first church building, located at the corner of what is now West Dixie Avenue and Helm Avenue (present site of Hardin Motors), was built about 1881, on a lot donated by Mr. and Mrs. D. C. S. Wintersmith, who lived next door. The building was a modest frame structure, with the characteristic belfry, in somewhat the typical style of the time. It was heated with coal stoves, which were too warm for persons seated nearby and too cold for many others.

The church was remodeled in 1917 while Rev. George F. Tinsley was pastor. The cupola and belfry were torn away and a porch was built across the front. Two front doors, each on the far opposite sides of the porch, replaced the one entrance at the



Christian Church - 1917 - 1961

left. Part of the basement was excavated and a coal furnace replaced the coal stoves. Sunday School rooms, a pastor's study, kitchen and nursery were also

added. The existing building was stuccoed, and the addition was of the same type. The newly remodeled structure was dedicated November 25, 1917.

In 1958 church members voted to abandon the midtown building in favor of a larger and more modern plant to be built on a tract on North Mulberry Street. First services were held in the new building on October 29, 1961.

The old building was sold to the Faith Tabernacle Church and subsequently to Hardin Motors. A cornerstone removed during the demolition of the old church and placed in the Hardin Motors building about 1962 shows the dates "1878 — 1917".

M. J. J.

100 YEARS AGO-- **HAPPENINGS OF THE SUMMER OF 1900**

Vine Grove--The reunion of the graduates of all the classes of the Vine Grove High School met at the Baptist church here Saturday with a large attendance and a splendid program. There were about twenty of the graduates present and some exceedingly fine talks were made, among them being that of Prof. Burton to the graduates. He spoke very touchingly of the two deceased members of the class, Bridge Bailey and Miss Mary T. Wathen. And at the conclusion of this talk the whole house was moved to tears. The evening came to a close with an ice cream supper in the school campus and a banquet at Isert & Craycroft's at which everyone enjoyed themselves to the fullest extent. The Band Boys interspersed the evening with some very delightful music. (*The Elizabethtown News*, June 29, 1900.)

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Elizabethtown--The information *The News* had last week indicated that the wheat crop of the county would not turn out as well as was expected at cutting time. The few crops that were threshed last week it seems did not represent the average in the county. Our reports this week are of a very encouraging nature and indicate the crop as large as the most sanguine had anticipated.

Mr. Rod Warfield at Long Grove threshed out 3,250 bushel on 145 acres. Mr. Eph Marriott at Nolin threshed out thirty-three bushels to the acre. Mr. Dave Brown near town has threshed his crop and the yield was thirty bushels to the acre. Mr. Richard Eskridge at Long Grove sacked twenty-eight bushels to the acre. His wheat was very badly damaged from heavy rains or he would have made thirty-five bushels. Mr. John Woelpert threshed twenty-seven and a half bushels to the acre. R. B. Park twenty-five bushels and the Pusey farm about twenty-one bushels. (*The Elizabethtown News*, July 13, 1900.)

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The Great Peach-Producing Section of Hardin County

(The Courier-Journal, July 4, 1891)

Everybody about Elizabethtown is busy now. There are some people in Hardin county that do nothing in the winter, others who just "lay around" in the spring, and still another class who pass the fall in idleness, but everybody in the peach region from the barefooted country boy of six years to the gray-headed farmer of sixty labors in the summer from sunrise to sunset. The only thing that can put all the citizens to work at once is the gathering of the peach crop.

Some people know and some people do not know that probably the finest peaches in the country are grown in this very region in Muldraugh's Hill. At least, the agents that come to Elizabethtown from Chicago, Cleveland, Pittsburgh and goodness knows where else to buy just as many bushels of this fruit as they can, say so. For two weeks all these Hardin county farmers and their sons and their daughters have been moving with a double quick step. Great cars that stood on the L. and N. tracks at Elizabethtown and Tunnel Hill have been rapidly filled with heaping baskets of the luscious, red-cheeked fruit and sent all over the country. But the labors of these folks have just begun. All through the summer they will be picking, assorting, boxing, packing, branding and shipping peaches--and putting money in the bank.

The first thing that strikes the traveler's ear as his train slows up at Elizabethtown is: "Peaches, peaches." Small boys, browned by the summer sun, throng every window of the coaches, and thrust their baskets in people's faces. A dozen great, big peaches, deliciously flavored, can be bought for five cents. When the traveler gets off the train and walks back in the old town he continues to hear the cry of "peaches, peaches," ding-donged in his ears, the price of peaches, the number of bushels of peaches shipped yesterday and the number to be shipped today, the size of this year's crop and the size of last year's crop, and no end of other peach facts. If he doesn't tell what his business is and tell it quick, he is suspected of being a peach agent, and hears on all sides that the crop is rather light this season, but of wonderful development



as regards sweetness and size. Not even the great wheat crop, for which this county is famous, attracts more attention.

Muldraugh's Hill, which takes up a good sized section of Hardin county, is magnificently adapted to the growth of peach trees, and the bending of their limbs down heavy every year with the fruit. Stretching back from Elizabethtown, over the rugged uplands of the old hill, are orchards upon orchards. Every road that leads out of the town goes past acres and acres of peach trees, fairly weighted down with their product. The great advantage of Muldraugh's Hill as a peach-raising district lies in its elevation above the sea. It is 500 feet higher than Louisville at places. This protects the trees from frost, as that always seeks the lowlands. Not once in twenty years

do the spring frosts, which kill the peach crop in other parts of the State, affect the trees on Muldraugh's Hill. In fact, there is a "danger mark" around that part of the hill which lies in Hardin. Below this the fruit may be every so often destroyed; above it is almost always safe. The only thing that can damage the peach crop is a very cold winter. If the thermometer goes down to ten degrees below zero, there is generally little chance; if it stays above, the people can breathe easy.

Last year the peach crop was a failure. This year the yield is unusually good. The peach district extends over a radius of twelve miles about Elizabethtown, which includes three shipping points--Tunnel Hill, Colesburg, and Elizabethtown. Within this space there are many orchards, probably seventy or eighty, but many of them consist of one and two hundred trees. The largest orchard of all is that of Mr. Sam Fern. He has 23,000 trees. Other large orchards are: Miles Wright's, of 9,000 trees; Cal. Fowler's, of 2,000 trees; F. F. Hegenbach's, of 5,000 trees; A. M. Brown's, of 2,000 trees; John Talbott's, of 2,500 trees; Jesse L. Talbott's, of 1,200 trees; Mrs. Louis Shousten's, of 5,000 trees; George McFarland's, of 4,500 trees; and Frank Twiggin's, of 1,700 trees.

The average yield, when there is a crop, runs from forty to sixty thousand bushels. This year it is placed at the former figures. The average price per bushel is about \$2.50. The trees are planted about twenty feet apart, and thus about sixty stand on an acre, and about two and one-half bushels are picked from each tree. A peach tree generally yields in three or four years after it is planted, and continues in bearing about fifteen years, though it sometimes lasts much longer. The late peaches pay the best. In the busy season about two car-loads of fruit are shipped away every day. The farmer watches his peach trees all the year round. They require close attention. He must enrich the ground around their roots, must prune them and do other things, known only to horticultural science. The appearance of a fine orchard is not what the city man, who eats the peaches, would take it to be. The trees are not large, like the soot-stained ones in the back yard of his home. They are small, some of them looking like mere bushes. There is one on Mr. McFarland's farm which has been bearing its bushel or so of peaches in fruit years, with the same industry as the larger trees, that is only two and one-half feet in



height. It is called a "China" tree. Neither are the rosy peaches gathered as some urban dwellers think. They are not knocked down with a long pole. Such a procedure would drive the Hardin county farmer almost crazy. Gathering peaches is a very tedious business. They are picked by hand, and are handled like eggs. The farmer's son or his hired hand uses a step-ladder and slowly strips the trees of their precious burden.

Having been placed in big baskets, the fruit is taken to a great shed, where it is "sorted," or graded. Here the deft hands of the rustic maidens come into play. The fruit is emptied on a large table, and the girls, who are just as plump and rosy-cheeked as the peaches, assort them. There are generally two classes--"A" and "B." The workers laugh and chat and talk about the coming picnic, and Sue's beau, and Annie's sweetheart, but all the time their eyes and hands are very busy, for the farmer with an eye to business wants his fruit on the market as soon as possible.

Sometimes twenty or thirty people are employed for days in gathering the fruit, for peaches,



Assorting and Grading the Fruit

like the tide, will wait for no man. They must be picked before they begin to get soft, or they need not be taken off the trees at all. After the fruit has been carefully assorted, it is placed in half-bushel baskets and taken to a railroad station and shipped here, there and everywhere. The farmers and the railroad people have been at cross purposes for a long time. The country man says that the freight charges are exorbitant. Numerous are the delegations that have been sent to argue and reason with the traffic men, and numerous have been the failures. Frequently the farmers lose because they will not pull together. The more advanced fruit growers want to combine with their neighbors and use "refrigerator" cars alone, but the men who want to do as their fathers did prefer the cheaper freight cars. The latter method causes the loss of a good many dollars, as the fruit is much damaged by frequent handling. The Muldraugh's Hill farmer's idea of Arcadia is a land where railroads carry peaches for nothing.

There are acres and acres of this Muldraugh's Hill land still covered with its native forests. You can buy whole farms for \$10 an acre. Hence the peach culture is still in its infancy. Hardin county people say

they will one day supply the country with peaches. It is unnecessary to state that this land is fitted for only one thing, and that is the production of peaches and other kinds of fruit. Before its value in this respect was discovered two or three years' cultivation sufficed to wear it out. In the language of Mr. John Stewart, who owns a big orchard: "A man could live on Muldraugh's Hill for two years, and then either starve or move away."

The pioneer fruit-raiser, the Columbus of Muldraugh's Hill agriculture, was Louis Shousten. His memory is revered by every man, woman and child in that section. His history, as it is the history of the fruit culture of this section, is interesting. He was a German, a shrewd, far-seeing man, who could patiently wait for his plans to ripen. Born near Coblenz, in 1823, on the historic Rhine, he grew up among the vineyards of Germany. There he learned the science of horticulture. When the grape season was over, he went to school and obtained a good education. Entering upon manhood, he chose a neighbor's pretty daughter for a wife, and, hearing of the great undeveloped lands of the United States, he joined the German emigration to this country. Landing in New York, he started West, and, reaching Kentucky, decided that he had come far enough. That was thirty-four years ago. He located at Pewee Valley, and lived for two years with Noble Butler, the noted teacher and author of text books. He tried fruit-raising there, but the land did not suit him, so after two years he pulled up stakes and went to Elizabethtown. The high land, the clear, thin atmosphere reminded him of his native Rhine-land, and he and his wife decided they would stop right in Hardin County and there spend the rest of their days. With the savings of two years of frugality, he bought eighty-four acres of land, some three miles back of Elizabethtown. People wondered what this earnest looking man was going to do with the little patch of land. When they saw their new neighbor planting peach trees, what laughs they had about the stove in the country stores. They pitied him, but he was such a determined looking fellow, with his broad shoulders and firm-set features, that they decided to let him alone.

Shousten put out 600 trees, and for three years watched the slender bushes grow and develop into strong-limbed trees. The third year he expected a



Louis Shousten

return, but not a single "scrawny" peach rewarded his labors, and his neighbors laughed the louder. Little discouraged, the immigrant got out his spade and hoe and worked for another year on his orchard, and when the next July came around his trees were loaded with richly flavored, red-cheeked peaches. He who laughs best laughs last, and Mr. Shousten had a good one out in his orchard all alone. Then he gathered his peaches and sold about 1,000 bushels at \$2.50 a bushel. He bought 100 more young trees and planted them, his eye ever on the future. More than that, he built himself and wife a comfortable house, and his credit was just as good at the country stores as the richest man in the county. (NOTE: The Shousten home is located at 1612 N. Miles Street, Elizabethtown. It is built of logs, and has been covered with yellow siding.) The flowers came again, and so did the peach blossoms, and so did a big crop of peaches. Mr. Shousten's bank account grew and flourished like his orchard. He ordered another 100 trees, and he and his wife began to ride to Elizabethtown in a buggy. Year after year went by, and there was only one man in the whole section who was making much money. For a long time the neighboring farmers refused to profit by the thrifty German's example, and steadily advocated his ultimate failure because he had introduced a new thing. Finally, however, the people saw that Shousten was going to keep right on succeeding, and at the same time realized that they could do likewise. So, one day

a man who lived near the Shousten place called on the owner and asked him for some information on peach culture. He was told all about peach trees, from planting them to gathering the crop, and before long this knowledge-seeker had 100 trees of his own. Then another and another farmer tried the experiment, and fifteen years after Shousten's arrival, many orchards were growing on Muldraugh's Hill. Men who had been starving on a scanty yield of wheat and corn took to raising peaches, and were soon well housed, well fed and well clothed.

The German added to his orchard steadily, and the spring before he died stood on his porch and looked out on his broad acres, where blossomed eight thousand peach trees. Mr. Shousten, during his lifetime, monopolized all the prizes for peaches at the county fairs. His fruit was sweeter than honey and was as delicately tinted as the blushing cheek of a maiden. He died four years ago, and was mourned by all the country around. His wife survives him and loves to tell of the struggles which she and her husband had when they first came to this country. She can tell what prices peaches brought 'way back in the "fifties," and during the [Civil] war times she remembers selling them at seventy-five cents a dozen. The first year of the war Shousten raised a big crop and sold them at fancy figures. But when the second year came round and the trees were hanging full of the luscious fruit, an army with banners marched along. Over the fence and under the trees the soldiers leaped as if they were charging an enemy. Peaches, worth five cents apiece, were crowded in knapsacks and jackets. A wild hurrah followed Mr. Shousten's order to quit the place, and the soldier boys did not leave until they were satiated. That night Mr. Shousten visited the commanding officer and laid his case before him, and the justice of his claim was recognized. The officer gave the fruit raiser some printed orders to post on his fences. The next day the soldiers returned for another feast, but the printed orders stared them in the face. The soldiers had to buy peaches after that, just like other people. Most remarkable is that the trees first planted by Shousten are bearing to this day. During the years of the war Shousten got \$16 a bushel for his peaches when he shipped them.

Three children survive the pioneer fruit raiser. (NOTE: Dorothy McFarland Dixon of Elizabethtown is a great-granddaughter.)

Every variety of peach, from the "Early Rivers" to the "White Heath" grows on the land, which thirty years ago was regarded as valueless. The Hardin County Horticultural Society, of which Mr. Jesse Talbott was president for years, has done much to advance the interest in peach raising.

Another interest of Hardin county is the drying of peaches. In past years, the fruit, after the stone had been taken out, was exposed to the sun on house roofs and sheds until thoroughly cured. A stranger passing through that part of the country would have been amazed at the covering of the houses. Now, the peaches are dried by an improved process known as evaporation. Attendant upon the peach-drying season comes the "peach peeling." This is a social affair, where pleasure is combined with work. The thrifty housewife invites the young folks for miles around to come to her house after sundown. The young folks come in troops, on horseback, in buggies, in carriages, in farm wagons, on foot--any way to get there. Out in the yard stand great tubs of fresh gathered peaches.

The rustic maids and sun-browned youths gather about the peaches, each supplied with a knife. They work and chatter, breaking up in pairs, talking love, and peeling and cutting peaches open with great rapidity. Anon the busy hostess brings out lemonade and cake, and John is careful to secure for Mary a large piece and a brimming glass. There are contests, and this couple try to cut more peaches than that, and there is much laughter over the result. Then Katie cuts her pretty finger and Sam binds the wound up with oh! So much tender care and is so solicitous about the pain his sweetheart feels. Here is Henry, who sits far back from the crowd working like a demon and silent, because pretty Lillie had to stay at home to iron, and Frank, also melancholy, because he loves not wisely, but too well. Many a lovers' vow has been plighted at these peach cuttings and many a buxom wife and sturdy husband, with children laughing about them, can trace their marriage to Neighbor Smith's peach-cutting.

(From the files of the Brown-Pusey House)

BATH HOUSE FOR VINE GROVE

Some of our young business men have well concluded that cleanliness is next to Godliness and have gone to work and now have in course of construction and well nigh complete a bath house with two compartments, where baths can be taken with both hot and cold water. In addition to the two bath rooms there is a long hall and a dressing room, and a gegenstrom apparatus to permit the bather to temper the water to suit himself.
(*The Elizabethtown News*, July 20, 1900)

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CONFEDERATE REUNION

Under the auspices of the Hardin County Confederate Association, the first annual reunion of those who wore the gray was held at Cecilian last Thursday. The event had been looked forward to with much pleasure, and every preparation made for a most successful gathering. Low rates were given by the railroads and the early morning trains dumped tremendous crowds upon the grounds, while in carriages, buggies and on horseback, the people poured in from all the surrounding country. The last train to arrive was the special from Elizabethtown at 10:30 packed with people and containing the Hays Guard decked out in their full dress uniforms. When these people were unloaded it is a safe calculation to say that the crowd numbered at least twenty-five hundred.

(*The Elizabethtown News*, Aug. 14, 1891)

REV. J. T. BARROW KILLED BY TRAIN AT GLENDALE

(The Elizabethtown News, July 14, 1899)

Monday morning a little past eight o'clock, Rev. J. T. Barrow, pastor of the Severns Valley Baptist church of this city, the oldest Baptist church organization in Kentucky, and also the pastor of the Gilead church at Glendale, was struck by the Bowling Green Accommodation train at Glendale and almost instantly killed. He had preached at Gilead Sunday and Sunday night had stayed with Mr. Hiram Overall, a member of his church. Monday morning he and Mr. Overall had started to Glendale station where Mr. Barrow was to take the train for Elizabethtown. They were a little late in starting for the depot and had to run some distance in order to make the train. Coming up the track they were walking on the dead track with the train coming up behind them. The train was within fifty yards of the depot and had slowed up to stop. Dr. Barrow either thought he was too far away from the train for it to strike him or else he started to cross the track just in front of the train to get on the platform and found the engine so close on him that he did not have time to draw back before the engine was on him. He was struck by the heavy piece of timber just above the pilot which extends out over the track. The timber hit him in the back, breaking his backbone and two of his ribs. He was thrown about ten feet. As he fell he uttered an exclamation and never spoke

again. He expired in fifteen minutes after the accident and was unconscious up to his death. A few minutes after the terrible accident word was sent here to his family by telephone. They at once went to Glendale by vehicle and came back with the remains on number 4.

The news of the death of this good man was received with most general regret throughout the county, and the horrible manner of his demise was a terrible shock to his hundreds of friends. Dr. Barrow was fifty-seven years old and was born in Logan county, Kentucky and was a son of Mr. Charles Barrow. He was married to Miss Elizabeth Robertson of Christian county, who together with two grown daughters, Misses Lelia and Bertha and a son Harry survive him. His first pastorate was at Sweetwater Baptist church, Tenn. For a number of years he was the pastor at Hopkinsville and afterwards at Owensboro. He came to Elizabethtown a little more than a year ago, having accepted the call for the church here. He was one of the most devout Christian men we ever knew, learned in the Scripture, earnest in his work and able and forceful in the pulpit. He was generally loved by every one who knew him and his death was a personal sorrow to hundreds of people.

NEW BOOK

Hardin County and Her Part in World War II

Hardin County and Her Part in World War II has been reprinted, and copies will be offered for sale at the meeting on July 24. This book, written by W. M. Boling of Elizabethtown and originally published in 1948, lists not only the names of all Hardin Countians who were in the military service during the war, but also members of the community who labored in the war effort at home. The price is \$5.00 plus tax.

For more information, call Barbara Lee, (270) 765-5264.

THE HARDIN COUNTY POOR HOUSE FARM

Guy Winstead

"... for ye have the poor always with you."
.. (Matthew 26:11)

It was the law, and there was no gainsaying it, however reluctant the pioneer officials were to enforce it. In no uncertain terms it stated, "An Act of Assembly Entitled an 'Act to Provide for the Poor of the Several Counties within this Commonwealth [Kentucky].'"

Accordingly, at the first meeting of the Hardin County Court, held on July 23, 1793, after the officials were recognized, it was the first order of business: "Ordered that the Sheriff [Isaac Hynes] advertise that an election will be held at Mr. Hodgen's old mill, in order to elect the several persons as directed by law, to serve as overseers of the poor and that Joseph Kirkpatrick superintend the election and report at the next court."

On August 23, Kirkpatrick reported that Thomas Gilliland, Richard Merton and Isaac Hynes were duly elected. However, Gilliland refused to serve and Thomas Redman "was appointed in the room of Thomas Gilliland."

There is no record of a house built or a farm bought in which to provide for the poor at that time. To comply with the law, the court appointed a man, with his consent and at a stipulated payment, to provide food, shelter and clothing for one year or other specified time, for an individual adjudged aged and indigent and without means. Sometimes an auction was held to obtain a keeper and "cried off to the lowest bidder."

A case in point was Alexander Murdoch, described as a poor person, who must have been a problem for his keepers. Over several years he was passed from one person or family to another, sometimes for three months, sometimes for six, and

occasionally for a year. In the first years of the court the upkeep of Murdoch and others like him was a drain on the very limited revenues of the county.

The first mention of an institution for paupers of Hardin county is in *A History of Elizabethtown, Kentucky, and its Surroundings*, by Samuel Haycraft (page 18), stating "... the most convenient place for erecting the poor house and jail for [the] county of Hardin was in Severns Valley . . ." There is no further mention of a poor house in Haycraft's book. The matter was evidently handled by the various overseers of the poor until 1883.

At a meeting of the county court in October, 1882 an order stated, "Witnesseth, that at the regular Court of Claims for Hardin county, G. E. Sheets, Ben R. Howsley and R. L. Payne were appointed commissioners to purchase a farm to be used as and designated as the Poor House Farm for Hardin county."

The commissioners purchased a 329-acre farm for \$9,000 from the heirs of E. G. Gaither and received the deed for it on April 9, 1883. The farm was situated between Valley Creek and the Bacon Creek road. Bryan R. Young was the first to superintend this farm and served for several years. The poor farm was operated by the superintendent and whatever help he could get from able-bodied residents. He was paid a salary and expenses, but whatever profit there was from the sale of farm produce went to the county.

The Poor House Farm, here and elsewhere, served a very real need. Such institutions date back to colonial days in this country. In England, where they are called almshouses, they date back to the twelfth century. They were a refuge, probably the only one, for the destitute aged, the mentally ill, the blind, the deaf and dumb, the crippled, the tubercular, homeless unemployed, vagrants, unmarried mothers, and abandoned and neglected children.

During the last quarter of the nineteenth century and first decades of the twentieth in this country there was widespread criticism of the treatment of the inmates, poor sanitation and safety standards, due mostly to incompetent overseers and neglect of management. Partly because of this, specialized state institutions were established to care for the mentally deranged, the blind, deaf and dumb, and orphaned children. For the most part only the indigent aged and the feeble-minded remained in the poor houses.

Upon the enactment of the Social Security law, the rapid growth of nursing homes, and later the state-operated Medicaid program, reliance on the poor houses was lessened. From a peak of probably 135,000 such institutions in the United States in the 1930's, the number dwindled to about 1200 in 1950.

At the Hardin County Poor House Farm in the twentieth century the number of residents rarely

exceeded ten or twelve, usually fewer. In 1958 the decision was made to sell the poor farm; it was sold at auction in 1959 to A. G. and Martin Louis Straney, who bought 80 acres of the farm on which the buildings were located. After building a barn, silo and corn crib, the Straneys sold the farm to Nicholas Stuecker in 1961.

The few inmates remaining in 1959 were moved to the Hardin County Health Department building on College Street, which had space for twenty beds. Coy Miller served as head of this institution from 1963 until 1969 when it, too, was closed. The few patients remaining received care at a local nursing home.

Thus another institution, once considered a necessity, which served the public for countless decades, closed, a victim of changing times. It signified the passing of an era.

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR TWO MONTHS ENDING MAY 31, 2000

Treasury Report			HCHS Book Account		
HCHS Regular Account			HCHS Book Account		
April - June 2000			April - June 2000		
Beginning Balance	01-Apr	\$ 5,985.47	Beginning Balance	01-Apr	\$7,332.03
Total Income		\$ 256.20	Total Income		\$2,547.42
Total Expenditures		\$ 271.42	Total Expenditures		\$693.36
Ending Balance	30-Jun	\$ 5,970.25	Ending Balance	30-Jun	\$9,186.09
Museum Fund Hilliard Lyons			Helm Cemetery Certificate of Deposit		
April - May 2000			February - May 2000 (No Activity)		
Beginning Balance	01-Apr	\$11,527.46	Beginning Balance	February	\$ 3,000.00
	30-Apr	11,548.30	Ending Balance	31-May	\$ 3,000.00
Ending Balance	31-May	\$ 11,568.95			
By Meranda Caswell					

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Mr. Harry Lee and Mr. Charles Skees have resigned their respective positions as President and Secretary of the Hardin County Historical Society.

As First Vice President, I will serve as President until other arrangements can be made. I will not be able to serve out the remainder of the term outlined in the Constitution of the Society. I have, therefore, asked the immediate past nominating committee of Mr. Bob Owsley, Mr. R. R. Thomas and Mrs. Mary Jo Jones to secure candidates to fill those two vacancies. These appointments will be at the discretion of the Executive Committee and will take office in January at the beginning of the new Society year.

Our thanks to these two gentlemen for their labors on behalf of the Society.

JEAN W. DAVIS

MINUTES OF THE HARDIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING - APRIL 24, 2000

The meeting was called to order by President Harry Lee at 6:40 PM. President Lee led the pledge to the flag. Rev. Mike Bell gave the invocation. At this time, all were called to eat.

President Lee passed out copies of the proposed budget for the year 2000. Charlie Skees read the minutes of the previous meeting. Meranda Caswell read the Treasurer's report.

Mary Jo Jones introduced the speaker, Confederate General Simon Bolivar Buckner, as portrayed by Duane Murner.

We have permission to reprint the Bond-Washington Book from the family. Thanks to Rep. Jimmie Lee and others for a \$10,000 grant from the state of Kentucky. We have submitted an application for an African Studies grant. Hardin County Fiscal Court has agreed to allow the Society to reprint the booklet on World War II. Book sales are over \$3,000 in 2000.

Alice Colvard, on the museum committee, reported on the status of the State Theater Complex. Alice mentioned that it would be worth looking into the old post office/library building for a museum.

There was a motion made by Judge R. R. Thomas for the Society to go before Fiscal Court to investigate and pursue the possibility of obtaining the building for purposes of a museum. The motion carried.

There was a motion made to adopt the budget for the year 2000. Mary Jo Jones moved to amend the budget. The budget was on the floor with a second. The motion to adopt the budget for the year 2000 was carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

CHARLES C. SKEES
Secretary, Hardin County Historical Society

ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMING ACTIVITIES

The Hardin County Historical Society will meet Monday evening, July 24, 2000, at the **COMMONWEALTH LODGE**, 708 E. Dixie Ave., Elizabethtown. Dinner will be served at 6:30 PM, followed by the program at 7:30 PM. The meal will be served buffet style; the price is \$6.50, including tax and tip. If you do not wish to come for dinner, you are welcome to come later.

James D. Brewer of Elizabethtown, author and historian, will be the speaker. He will discuss the Skirmish at the Rolling Fork, which took place in eastern Hardin County on Dec. 29, 1862, following the burning of the railroad trestles, between Confederate troops of General John Hunt Morgan and Union troops under Col. John M. Harlan. Brewer is a longtime Civil War researcher, speaker, teacher, site preservationist and reenactor. He is a prolific writer of both fiction and non-fiction, primarily about the Civil War period. His books available at the Hardin County Public Library include *The Danger from Strangers*, *No Bottom*, *No Escape*, *No Justice*, *No Remorse*, *No Virtue*, and *The Raiders of 1862*. He is a retired Army officer, a freelance journalist, and an authority on John Hunt Morgan's Christmas raid through Hardin County.

Call Mary Jo Jones (765-5593) or Tamara Taylor (763-1080) **NOT LATER THAN SATURDAY, July 22, 2000, for dinner reservations OR for seating for the program only.**

The Site Visitation Committee has arranged a program on Sept. 10, 2000, on the history of Stithton, one of the small Hardin County towns taken over by the Federal Government in 1918 for the construction of Camp Knox (now Fort Knox). This will be conducted by Gary Kempf and will include a visit to a cemetery where pioneer settlers of the town are buried. Other visual aids will be used. Meet at the city parking lot on N. Main Street near the Brown-Pusey House at 1:30 PM for transportation to the site. For more information, call Jim Lancaster, (270) 765-6700.

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