
Bits and Pieces

of Hardin County History

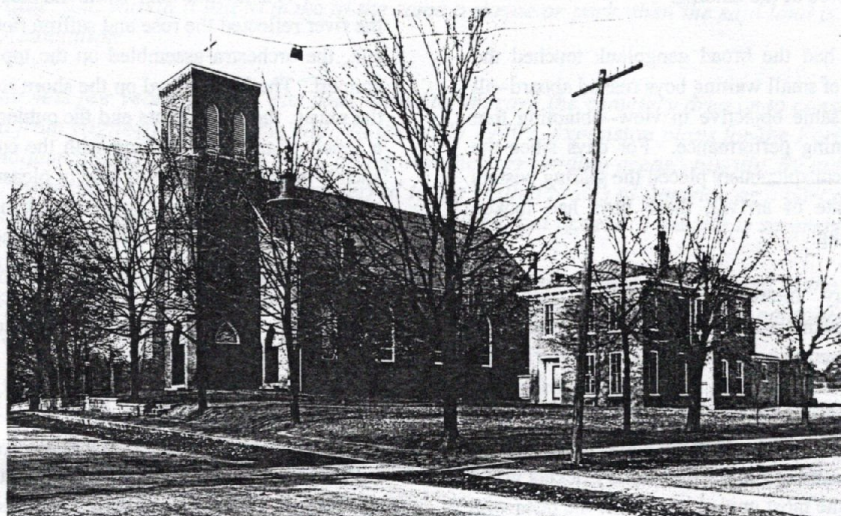
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ST. JAMES CATHOLIC CHURCH



St. James Church and Rectory, 1884 - 1968

In 1840 there were a very few Catholic families in the Elizabethtown area; however, a Catholic Mission was established there and the first mass was celebrated that year by the Rev. Charles Coomes in the home of one of the parishioners. Five years later, the number of communicants had increased, and although most of the people were poor, they felt the need for a church building. Finally, in 1848 the first church edifice was built on the present site of the church. The new building cost about \$3,000, which made it one of the best church structures in the town at that time.

The first resident priest after the church was built was Rev. Augustine Degauquier. He was succeeded in 1868 by Rev. T. J. Disney. It was under Father Disney's pastorate that the Sisters of Loretto established St. Mary's Academy in connection with the church. The academy later became the St. James School.

Under Rev. T. J. Cook in the 1880's, the 1848 building was razed, and a new building was erected on the site. It was completed in 1884, except for the steeple. Father Cook died in 1888 and was succeeded by Rev. Hugh J. Daly. During his pastorate of nearly 35 years, the church grew in numbers and influence. Father Daly cultivated grapes and made wine for the altar.

Following the death of Father Daly, Rev. P. M. Monaghan was named as his successor. During his ministry, extensive interior improvements were made in the church, at a cost of about \$20,000. A pipe organ was installed at a cost of \$2,500. By 1920 the church had a communicant membership of 450.

In 1968 plans were announced for the building of a new church. The 1884 building and the rectory were razed, and once again a new building has taken shape on the "Catholic Church corner" of Miles and West Dixie in Elizabethtown.

THE SHOW BOAT AT WEST POINT

(The Elizabethtown News, June 26, 1936)

The far-away melody of a steam calliope always proclaimed the approach of that palatial institution known to river town residents as the show boat. Frequently, while traces of summer morning mists still hovered over the river, the huge white theatre, towed by a steamer that looked small in comparison, arrived at the landing.

Scarcely had the broad gangplank touched the shore when a horde of small waiting boys rushed aboard—all of them with the same objective in view—obtaining free tickets to the evening performance. For days since the advance agent had conspicuously placed the glaring posters announcing the date of arrival, these boys had looked forward to its coming.

Mercenary interests were forced into the background by the glamour and importance of the fortunate boys who were chosen to perform various duties during the day. Several boys were selected to scatter hand-bills from house to house; others to guide officials around town as there were always fees to pay before showing, and certain quarters where a generous scattering of complimentary tickets was a good policy. But the most envied boys were the ones who donned specially designed costumes and carried the banners in the parade that inevitably occurred during the day.

This parade at the beginning consisted of members of the orchestra. Their natty uniforms and gleaming instruments attracted as much attention as their music. By the time members of this group reached the center of town their dignity was somewhat lessened by the multitude of black and white youngsters that had joined their ranks. Up one street and down the other, the crowd increasing at every corner. When the whole town had been visited, the musicians returned to the boat and there was no more excitement until late afternoon, but an atmosphere of pleasant expectancy invaded the town.

Just before sundown a sudden blood-curdling shriek would rend the air, followed by more but less terrifying sounds that soon developed into a semblance of harmony, and presently the calliope was reminding those who had momentarily forgotten the evening entertainment

with the strains of "Dixie," "My Old Kentucky Home," and "Swanee River." Those beloved songs of the South were never so appealing as when heard by listeners throughout the valley at the close of a summer day.

A short time later while the placid dark surface of the river reflected the rose and saffron tints of the vanished sun, the orchestra assembled on the top deck for a short concert. The large crowd on the shore stood fascinated by the music, the many lights and the outdoor scene. Perhaps a lonely shanty boat drifting with the current would pass silently by the boat or a skiff load of pleasure-bent Hoosiers glide from the mauve shadows of the Indiana shore and move toward the anchored boat, leaving behind a path of silver ripples that spent themselves before they reached the bank. When the concert ended the crowd dispersed and those going aboard made their way down the bluff bank.

The interior arrangement did not differ much from the ordinary theatre. In the extreme rear a section was provided for the negroes. This was always well filled. The boys and young men who were inclined to be rowdy sat in the balcony; however, misbehavior was never tolerated. Here the peanuts and popcorn vended did a profitable business.

The acting was often surprisingly good, sometimes very poor. Versions of well-known plays mixed with a dubious comedy usually made the program. Wise-cracking at the expense of some local citizen was a feature calculated to bring merriment along with the rest of the comedy. But regardless of how those attending were rewarded, the next boat brought the same crowd out for another experience.

The splendors of the old show-boat disappeared with the popular boats, the *Cotton Blossom*, *Sunny South* and *Golden Rod*. Once or twice during the season a strange boat minus the trappings of former days will put in an appearance, unheralded and unknown. People ask in doubtful tones, "Is that a show-boat?" A few go, but that form of entertainment is rapidly being enveloped by a progress of time.

HARDIN COUNTY'S STATE PARK

In 1931 a movement was spearheaded by G. E. McMurtry of Vine Grove to establish a state park in northern Hardin County. The targeted area was the old Mill Creek Baptist Cemetery where are buried Bathsheba Lincoln, grandmother of the President, and other members of the Lincoln family. To accomplish this, the Memorial Association of Lincoln and the Lincolns was incorporated. Trustees of the Mill Creek Baptist Church conveyed title to the property to this association on the condition that the property be used for park purposes.

After considerable negotiations between McMurtry and his associates and representatives of the state, title to the land was transferred to the Commonwealth of Kentucky on July 12, 1936. The consideration for this conveyance, as stated in the deed, is that the state "agrees to make a park of said ground or shrine, on account of its historical value; and should it fail to make of the same a shrine or park, then the said land is to revert . . ." to the Memorial Association.

For the next few years nothing was done either to improve the cemetery area or to construct the necessary road from Highway 31-W to the site. In the early 1940's, expansion plans for the Fort Knox military reservations included acquisition of this tract, along with the surrounding areas. Finally, by judgment of the U. S. District Court, ownership of this land was transferred to the United States of America as a part of the military post, where it remains today. The plot today is well maintained, but access to the site is severely limited.

In 1960 the Governor of Illinois, in a public ceremony at the cemetery, presented to the people of Kentucky a large granite monument to stand over Mrs. Lincoln's grave. The monument contains a stone from President Lincoln's tomb in Springfield, Ill.

Three of the editorials which appeared in Elizabethtown newspapers regarding this proposed attraction follow.

M. J. J.

HARDIN COUNTY--THE HOME OF THE LINCOLNS

(Editorial, *The Elizabethtown News*, June 23, 1936)

Hardin county, Kentucky, is the home county of the Lincoln family. Abraham Lincoln, when President of the United States, wrote a letter to Samuel Haycraft, of Elizabethtown, then the clerk of the Hardin county court, in which he stated definitely where he was born, in Hardin county near Nolin. That is the present site of the Memorial Hall. A deed recorded in the Hardin county clerk's office shows that Abraham Lincoln's father bought this tract of land and moved to it a few years before Abraham was born.

It is a remarkable fact that Thomas Lincoln, who had a good farm and a two-story house on Mill Creek, a farm of fertile and productive land, should have moved to Elizabethtown, but the record is that he was a hatchet-and-saw carpenter and that he moved to Elizabethtown. He went from here to Springfield where he married his first wife, Nancy Hanks, and they lived in Elizabethtown on the site of

what is now Claude Pemberton's saddle horse barn on Race Street [ED. NOTE: *About 105 Central Ave.*]. When the editor of *The News* came to Elizabethtown in 1882 the old Lincoln home was standing. It was there that Thomas Lincoln's daughter, Sarah, was born. Thomas Lincoln had plenty of money and plenty of credit as the record books of Bleakley & Montgomery show. He seemed to have gotten into a very desperate condition financially by moving out of Elizabethtown and going to this poor farm in the eastern part of Hardin near the south fork of Nolin where his son was born, supposedly in the hut that now stands there. Haycraft relates a circumstance in his history of Elizabethtown about Thomas Lincoln coming to Elizabethtown with his boy, Abraham, and bringing him in the clerk's office. Mr. Haycraft was writing and the boy had never seen anybody write before and remarked, "Is that what you call writing?"

But the real home of the Lincolns is Mill Creek, not Elizabethtown, and not the old farm near Nolin in the eastern part of Hardin county, which was made Larue county in 1842. In a little cemetery of the Baptist church of Mill Creek lies buried the grandmother of Abraham Lincoln, Bersheeba Lincoln. Her husband, Abraham Lincoln, was killed by the Indians. Thomas Lincoln was her youngest child. Two of Abraham's aunts, Nancy Lincoln Brumfield and Mary Lincoln Crume, are buried here also. To the people who revere the Lincolns and their early ancestry this spot should be reached by a highway from Dixie Highway which would only be a few miles to construct, and the little graveyard should be made into an attractive spot with distinctive markers and the history of the people who are buried there, who are the ancestors of the Lincoln family. Tourists now passing through the country want to know the history and want to visit

all historical spots. There is no more historical spot in Hardin county than the little Mill Creek cemetery, where lie the remains of the grandmother of Abraham Lincoln and Thomas Lincoln's two older sisters.

... The State of Kentucky should unquestionably build this road to the Mill Creek graveyard of the Lincolns, for nearly every tourist of the North coming into Kentucky would want to visit it. Mill Creek is a small stream that runs through a fertile valley and here lie the only close relatives of Abraham Lincoln who are buried in Kentucky. Why should not this be made a beautiful spot? Our civic clubs should take this matter up and see if this place should not be made what it could be made, an attractive place for tourists to visit.

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HARDIN'S STATE PARK

(Editorial, *Hardin County Enterprise*, July 8, 1937)

Hardin county has a state park, according to recent listing of Kentucky Parks by Director Bailey P. Wooten, but few people in the county are cognizant of the fact, due to the unapproachability of the area. About the only way it could be reached satisfactorily would be by muleback.

was in the same condition, the party refused, and rightfully, to drive over such a rock path. Had the road been even graded, this party of Lincoln historians would have made the trip, and unestimated benefits in advertising to the county would have resulted.

It is the Lincoln cemetery, located about five miles from the Dixie highway near Rogersville--only about two and a half miles by straight line.

Further, Mr. Wooten has declared that the state, which already has accepted this cemetery as a state park, will put the area in condition and take care of it when the road is built.

This is the principal claim Hardin county has to Lincoln-attracted tourists. When a passable road built from the highway, it would mean additional hundreds of visitors to this county annually.

While, of course, main roads must be built first, but this short stretch being constructed at this time would mean thousands of dollars to the entire county. It is our understanding that the rights-of-way necessary for a direct route from the highway to this area already have been granted. Such being true, nothing should prevent this road being built.

Prior to the Lincoln Pilgrimage, June 26, Dr. Louis A. Warren and his party inquired if the road had been improved, in order to bring his group to view the cemetery. Upon being informed the road

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AN OPPORTUNITY TO HELP THE COUNTY

(Editorial, *Hardin County Enterprise*, Jan. 30, 1940)

At this time of year when a road program is being planned for the State, the matter of construction of a short section of highway between 31-W and a plot known as the "Kentucky Park No. 17," should not be overlooked.

Too long already has this been pushed aside in favor of other projects, or forgotten entirely.

True, this park is only a burying ground, but it is a burying ground of Bersheba Lincoln, the grandmother of a man twice elected President of the United States, the man who stands out as one of the greatest, if not the greatest, President this nation has had in its 164 years of existence.

It is not, however, our purpose to extol the virtues of any man here, but again to point out that here lies Hardin county's greatest historical attraction, inaccessible to the great number of tourists who annually come this direction.

Two aunts of Abraham Lincoln, Mary Lincoln Crume and Nancy Lincoln Brunfield, also are buried in this cemetery.

The cemetery is five miles from the Dixie highway at Rogersville, as the present circuitous route goes--only two and a half miles in a straight line. Lincoln historians, practically the only persons who ever try to get over the rough path (so-called a road) never attempt it a second time.

The rights-of-way along this road were granted prior to 1937, but, so far, nothing has been done toward the actual building of the road.

The construction of this two-and-a-half-mile stretch and building it the few remaining miles to the Shepherdsville road, would mean more to Hardin county and perhaps Kentucky than the building of any other 50-mile stretch in the State.

SONORA IN 1879

A gazetteer for the entire state of Kentucky was published in 1879 and included an entry for almost every community in the state at that time. The entry for the town of Sonora follows:

This quite enterprising town of 300 inhabitants is in Hardin County, on the L. & G. S. R. R., 55 miles from Louisville, and has three churches and a high school. Wheat, hogs, and cattle are shipped. Adams Express. Daily mail. J. F. Armstrong, postmaster.

The Business Directory included J. B. Allen, blacksmith; James F. Armstrong, postmaster and Express agent; Mesdames Brashear and Medcalf, millinery; Brunk and Patterson, general store; E. F. Dyer, dry goods; J. R. Grinstead, blacksmith and wagonmaker; J. R. Hutchison, boots and shoes; Lampton & Tichenor, general store; Walter Medcalf, druggist; James Owsley, physician; John A. Raine, general store; Wesley Rork, butcher; W. Rourke, huckster; Morrison Shinick, wagonmaker; George Sullivan, blacksmith; H. S. Sullivan, general store; J. Tarpley, physician; Miss Lizzie Walker, millinery; F. White, carpenter; and L. Womack, harnessmaker.

(Adapted from an article in *The Kentucky Explorer*, September, 1999.)

FIRST BRICK HOUSE IN ELIZABETHTOWN

G. W. Winstead

It was a complete surprise to the inhabitants of Elizabethtown in 1801 when word got around that a brickyard had opened and a brick house was to be built for Major Ben Helm.

Up to that time houses built in Severns Valley were of round logs with floors of packed earth or split timbers called puncheon floors. These gradually gave way to hewed log houses with shingled roofs, fastened with poplar pegs, plank floors and windows with sash and glass or greased paper. Every half-acre lot had enough timber on it to build a house, kitchen, stable, hen house, and to fence the ground, with enough left over for firewood.

Major Ben Helm, who was a son of Capt. Thomas Helm, one of the first pioneers in Severns Valley, was the first citizen having the means and enterprise to overcome the many obstacles to building a brick house in the wilderness. A brickyard had to be built, the plank sawed at a water mill or with a whipsaw, then seasoned by firing in plank kilns. As there were no nails, Major Helm had to ride his horse 90 miles to Lexington for them. He paid 37-1/2 cents per pound for 30 pounds of wrought shingle nails and rode home with the nails in his saddle bags.

The house, when completed, was 50 feet long and 25 feet wide and had a deep cellar under the entire building. The walls of the first story were 18 inches thick, but 13 inches was considered wide enough for the second story. The floors of blue ash were laid on massive sleepers, also of blue ash timber. The plaster, done by a plasterer from Lexington, was more than an inch thick and polished to a high gloss. Charles Sawyer, an Englishman, was the brick layer and Robert Huston did the carpentry work on the house.

When finished in 1803 a circle was made in the street gable about the size of the forewheel of a wagon, made lower than the common surface and finished in white with the letters, *Ben Helm, 1802*. The house was erected on the northeast corner of Main and Poplar streets in Elizabethtown. Two magnificent magnolia trees stood on either side of the portico.

Samuel Haycraft, Jr., the historian, purchased the house in 1822, and he and his family resided in it until his death December 22, 1878. The house was destroyed by fire in 1882.

\$5000 PAID FOR EAST VIEW SAND BANK

(The Elizabethtown News, July 22, 1921)

East View land, most of which is not regarded as especially valuable, set a new record yesterday when \$5,000 was paid for fifteen acres. The seller was Ramey Lyons, and the purchaser, the Standard Sanitary Co., of Louisville.

The enormous value attached to the land was the fact that it contains a splendid sand bank. The sand will be dug out by the purchasers, and used for manufacturing purposes. It is probable that a plant to wash the sand will be set up on the property, which is a mile north of East View.

Several years ago Mr. Lyons bought 60 acres of land from W. S. Glasscock for \$650. Yesterday he sold fifteen acres of it for \$5,000.

SAMUEL HAYCRAFT - CHURCH HISTORIAN

R. Gerald McMurtry

When the Salem Association of United Baptists met at the Big Spring Church in LaRue County, Kentucky, for their eighty-sixth session on September 22 and 23, 1871, H. G. V. Wintersmith read to the delegates a circular letter written by Deacon Samuel Haycraft.

The circular letters were to be devoted to the history of the churches in the Salem Association, beginning with the oldest and rotating toward the youngest. Following this rule, the subject of the Haycraft letter was "History of the Severns Valley Church" in Elizabethtown which was the oldest church. The author of each letter was obligated to read his report before the assembled delegates.

Haycraft is referred to in the 1871 minutes as a "venerable author, now too feeble to meet with us." This is surprising as the Elizabethtown historian, born in 1795, did not die until December 22, 1878. Perhaps the seventy-six-year-old historian did not feel able to read aloud, before an audience, a circular letter which was equivalent in length to ten pages of small type. This would be a tedious assignment for even a polished speaker with a glib tongue.

However, the above description of the letter should not discourage the reader. There are quaint references to rigid discipline and required punctual church attendance. Heads of families are to impose strict discipline on members under their care, disorderly conduct and dishonesty must be clearly dealt with; and because land speculators from 1789 to 1794 had created a great deal of trouble for the early settlers of Elizabethtown and vicinity, they were to be excluded from membership. Likely this particular ruling applied only for a very limited period. Also there was to be no "frolicking" about the house of a member and the head of the house should not suffer his children to attend "frolics." Then, too, members were excluded for intoxication, swearing, attending horse races, fighting, etc.

Haycraft reveals in his circular letter the exemplary life that a Baptist should lead, and he gave a splendid insight into the vicissitudes of pioneer life, the problems of building a congregation and of church construction, efforts to maintain memberships and the early struggle of the ministers, one of whom was killed or kidnapped by the Indians in May, 1782. Church finances was also an important factor.

One has a feeling that these problems were of major importance in the daily lives of the early Baptists, and due to their isolation during these pioneer days, they likely gave little thought to state, national and international affairs. Here during this period of Elizabethtown's early beginning was likely a way of life that was safe and comfortable (except for disease) compared with today, but no one would likely aspire to return to the "good old days." Perhaps even the delegates who heard H. G. V. Wintersmith read Haycraft's circular letter (written in 1843 but slightly revised for the Big Spring meeting) on September 22, 1871 must have felt they were listening to ancient history.

One young member of the congregation who did break away from the provincial environment of early Elizabethtown was Duff Green who was born in Woodford County, Kentucky, on August 15, 1791. He was appointed clerk of the Baptist Association in July, 1813. Green's residence in Elizabethtown was not of long duration. While there he taught in the Elizabethtown Academy, volunteered as a soldier in a military company called the Yellow Jackets, formed a partnership in an Elizabethtown mercantile firm, received an appointment as surveyor of public lands in Missouri and was commissioned a general in the militia. He left Elizabethtown in 1817, having resided there about six years. Later he became Editor of the *United States Telegraph*, Washington, D. C., and eventually became a member of the famed Andrew Jackson "Kitchen Cabinet." About one year after he arrived in Elizabethtown, Green married, on

November 25, 1813, Lucretia Edwards, a sister of Governor Ninian Edwards, the first territorial governor of Illinois.

An index to Haycraft's *A History of Elizabethtown, Kentucky and its Surroundings* reveals a number of references to the Severns Valley Baptist Church, but there is probably no better account available relative to that church's early history than is to be found in the circular letter. However, the author, as well as the contents, reveals that the circular letter was written (except with some slight alterations) in 1843.

Fortunately for students of church history the circular letter was published along with the minutes of the Association in a nineteen-page pamphlet by the Louisville, Kentucky, Western Recorder printery in 1871.

Haycraft concluded his circular letter with a tribute to the elder Jacob Van Meter who died in 1798 in his sixty-eighth year and "left almost a

nation behind him." His descendants, according to Haycraft, "from the best calculation that can be made, number over 3000, of which at least 800 are Baptists." This tribute follows with a sketch on the younger Jacob Van Meter who died December 12, 1850 in his eighty-ninth year with a remarkable revelation of his great Christian faith. Haycraft wrote in conclusion, "Thus lived and died the last survivor of the old pioneers of this church, a good man and a shining light."

It is not practical to attempt to publish in this small quarterly the ten pages of small type which constitutes Samuel Haycraft's circular letter. However, a photocopy of the *Minutes of the Eighty-Sixth Annual Session of the Salem Association of United Baptists with the Big Spring Church on September 22d and 23d, 1871* (which contains the circular letter, pages 7 to 17) is on file in the Library of the Brown-Pusey House. Local historians will find the Haycraft letter of considerable interest.

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ASPHALT IN HARDIN AND GRAYSON COUNTIES

(From an article in *The Louisville Times*, reprinted in *The Elizabethtown News*, Jan. 24, 1902.)

James Montgomery of Elizabethtown, a member of the Committee on Legislation of the Kentucky Good Roads Association from the Fourth Congressional District, addressed the Commercial Club of Louisville, in January, 1902, in the interest of better roads. He gave information he said was not generally known. He reported that there is a strata or bed of natural asphalt about twenty miles in width, extending from East View in Hardin County to Millwood in Grayson county, running east and west from Bowling Green to Cloverport on the Ohio River. In Grayson county there is a station on the Illinois Central railroad called Black Rock, so named on account of the inexhaustible beds of crude asphalt found in the vicinity.

He suggested that the Commercial Club, with the cooperation of the railroads running

through the asphalt region, make a mile of common road in the Louisville area as an object-lesson after this style: Half a mile of common earth road made with modern machinery, and then covered with crude asphalt rock. The remaining half-mile should be based with two inches of limestone rock and then covered with one or two inches of crude asphalt. It was Montgomery's opinion that the very best roads can be made at the very lowest expense.

Montgomery stated he believed farmers in the neighborhood, in order to make the test and give it publicity, would be willing to mine the asphalt and donate it, and the railroads would transport it without charge. He said the day is not far distant when the country roads will be so improved that truck wagons drawn by road engines will supersede the old style wagons.

RURAL SCHOOLS OF THE 1800's

(Taken from an article in *The Elizabethtown News*, Feb. 28, 1890.)

In 1830 the typical school house in Kentucky was made of logs, covered with clap-boards, and not a nail was used in its construction. The gable ends were closed up with logs. The boards that covered it rested on what were called ribs. To prevent the boards from slipping off, they were terminated at the eaves of the house, against what was called butting poles.

To keep them from blowing off, a pole was laid across each course of boards, which poles were called weight-poles, and these weight-poles were kept apart by what were called "knees." Butting poles rested on what were called eave-bearers, being the last log in the body of the house with the ends projecting fifteen or eighteen inches over the body of the house.

The only tools used in building the house were ax, froe, drawing knife, auger and hand saw.

The window was made by widening a crack on the side of the house so that an eight by ten glass could get in between the logs, and when glass could not be had, a greased paper was then substituted. By the window a broad plank twelve or fifteen feet long was supported by a stick, one end of which was supported by a prop from the floor. This was the writing-desk. The seat used was a tree about twelve inches in diameter cut down and split open, and the splinters taken off with an ax, and legs inserted into it. On this bench the pupils sat.

The scholar was expected to hold his book up before him, and he looking on it, and this was called studying. If he did not know his lesson, the switch was used. A word of general explanation to the scholars was rarely, if ever, heard. He was expected to dig out what he could by himself. A black-board was unknown.

Contrast this with the schools of 1890. One day in that year, a gentleman got off the train at Tunnel Hill and, with a view of accomplishing his mission, started out on a road running to the northwest. About half a mile from the station, he fell in with some little boys carrying a bucket of water and

going in the direction of a neat white frame building, enclosed by a good plank fence, which he was told was a school-house.

Things looked so clean and tidy on the outside that the gentleman was induced to venture into the house. There he found everything comfortable and in good order, each scholar had a nice desk of the most improved pattern, and all the comforts of a first class high school in the city, and a young lady, Miss Lillie Irwin, teaching. She had little boys and girls of fifteen years of age solving problems on the black-board, which the first school Commissioner of Hardin County could not have done. In fact the house and teacher and school were all first class. The house is sealed on the inside, and it would be hard to find a more comfortable building in any of the cities.

The gentleman was astonished to find such a school with such a good teacher and in so comfortable a building, and to learn that it was one of the one hundred free schools in Hardin county. He was informed that there was a gentleman in the neighborhood named John Stewart who took a most lively interest in schools and had on more occasions than one showed his faith by his works in a very substantial way.

About 1840 the first free school district in Hardin County was laid off, in what was known as Hansbro Valley. The law authorized a little tax to be imposed on the citizens of the district. The largest taxpayers were for the tax; the smaller taxpayers were against it. One man especially, who had six acres of land and double that number of children, opposed the tax bitterly. The Hansbro Valley School was built according to the pioneer pattern.

At that time the free school system was then unpopular with many persons. Competent teachers were rare. Anyone who could spell pretty well in three syllables was considered competent to teach. No such teachers as Miss Irwin, of whom mention has been made, were to be found in the rural areas.

HARDIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOOKS FOR SALE
 (THESE PRICES EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 12, 2000. Kentucky residents add 6% sales tax)

<i>A HISTORY OF ELIZABETHTOWN, KENTUCKY</i> , by Samuel Haycraft, 1869; reprint 1999, hb	\$ 24.00
<i>A PICTORIAL HISTORY OF ELIZABETHTOWN & HARDIN COUNTY</i> , by Guy Winstead, 1989, hb	30.00
<i>A SERIES OF MONOGRAPHS CONCERNING THE LINCOLNS AND HARDIN COUNTY, KENTUCKY</i> , by R. Gerald McMurtry, 1938; 2d printing 1999, hb	18.00
<i>BARNEY, FORGOTTEN HERO--The Story of Commodore Joshua Barney and his Connection with Elizabethtown, Kentucky</i> , by George K. Holbert, 1943; reprint 1998	3.00
<i>BEN HARDIN HELM</i> , by R. Gerald McMurtry, 1943; 2d printing 1999, hb	18.00
<i>CHRONICLES OF HARDIN COUNTY, 1766-1974</i> , compiled by Mrs. T. D. Winstead, 1974, hb	10.00
<i>DIAMONDS, RUBIES AND SAND--The Story of Philip Arnold of the Great Diamond Fraud and his Connection with Elizabethtown, Kentucky</i> , by Margaret S. Richerson & Mary Jo Jones, 1999	6.00
<i>EAST SIDE CHRONICLE 1928</i> , reprint 2000, pb	3.00
<i>ELIZABETHTOWN, KENTUCKY 1770-1879</i> , by R. Gerald McMurtry, 1938; reprint 1959	3.00
<i>FACTS ABOUT ELIZABETHTOWN AND HARDIN COUNTY, 1923</i> , compiled by Leroy Martin, 1923; reprint 1987	5.00
<i>GEORGE ARMSTRONG CUSTER IN ELIZABETHTOWN, 1871-1873</i> , by Mary Jo Jones, 1998	3.00
<i>GLIMPSES OF ELIZABETHTOWN'S PAST</i> , Hardin County Historical Society, 1998	3.00
<i>HARDIN COUNTY AND HER PART IN WORLD WAR II</i> by W. M. Boling, 1948, reprint 2000	5.00
<i>HARDIN HERITAGE--THE HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE OF HARDIN COUNTY, KENTUCKY</i> , Hardin County Planning and Development Commission, 1986	10.00
<i>HISTORIC HARDIN COUNTY, KENTUCKY, COLORING BOOK</i> , Artist Barbara Gaffney, 1991	1.00
<i>JAMES BUCHANAN IN KENTUCKY, 1813</i> , by R. Gerald McMurtry, 1934; reprint 1998	3.00
<i>NOSTALGIA--THE OLDE BETHLEHEM ACADEMY</i> , by Edith Ray, 1983, hb	25.00
<i>SARAH BUSH LINCOLN</i> , Elizabethtown Woman's Club, 1922	1.00
<i>SEPTEMBER 1900 SUPPLEMENT TO THE ELIZABETHTOWN NEWS</i> , Reprint 1999	8.00
<i>THE BOND-WASHINGTON STORY</i> , by Lottie Offet Robinson, reprint 2000, hb	20.00
<i>THE CARRIE NATION - J. R. NEIGHBORS INCIDENT</i> , by Mary Josephine Jones, 1998	3.00
<i>THE CIVIL WAR IN HARDIN COUNTY, KENTUCKY</i> , by Mary Josephine Jones, 1995; revised 1999	10.00
<i>THE KENTUCKY LINCOLNS ON MILL CREEK</i> , by R. Gerald McMurtry, 1937; reprint 1999, hb	18.00
<i>THE LINCOLN MIGRATION FROM KENTUCKY TO INDIANA, 1816</i> , by R. Gerald McMurtry, 1937; reprint 1999	5.00
<i>THE LINCOLNS IN ELIZABETHTOWN, KENTUCKY</i> , by R. Gerald McMurtry, 1932, reprint 2000	3.00
<i>TWO CENTURIES IN ELIZABETHTOWN AND HARDIN COUNTY, 1776 - 1976</i> , by Daniel E. McClure, Jr., 1979; reprint 1999, hb	65.00
<i>WHO WAS WHO IN HARDIN COUNTY</i> , Hardin County Historical Society, 1946; reprint 1980	15.00

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I take this opportunity to remind the membership that we need to fill the positions of president and secretary to complete the remaining year of the term of office. I agreed to serve until the January meeting. Tamara Taylor has been serving as acting secretary.

The elected nominating committee declined to act to fill the vacant positions, and we are still operating with acting president and secretary.

Please bring your nominations for these offices to the January meeting. Any nominee must be contacted prior to the meeting as to his/her

willingness to serve and must be a member in good standing (dues paid) at the time of the election.

Barbara Lee has completed her year as Chairman of the Book Committee with much success, particularly the work done in reprinting *The Bond Washington Story*. We congratulate her and her committee for their hard work and commitment to the Hardin County Historical Society.

We look forward to another year of interesting programs and activities.

JEAN W. DAVIS
Acting President

NOTES FROM THE COMMITTEES

FROM THE BOOK COMMITTEE: A list of all books of the Society currently in print appears on the preceding page. These books may be purchased at the Brown-Pusey House or by mail from the Society. Shipping costs for mail orders are \$4.00 for the first book and \$1.00 for each additional book ordered at the same time. Kentucky residents must add 6% sales tax.

FROM THE EDITOR: You will note that this issue of *Bits and Pieces* is Volume XIX, No. 5. Membership renewals are due in January, and the January issue of the quarterly will be sent to all members in good standing during the previous year. In order to permit timely updating of the membership roll, the new year for the publication will begin with the Spring issue. Thus, members will receive Vol. XX, No. 1, in April 2001, and Vol. XX, No. 4, in January 2002.

FROM THE TREASURER:

HARDIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY DUES FOR THE YEAR 2001 ARE NOW PAYABLE. THE AMOUNT IS \$8.00 PER MEMBER. IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO, PLEASE MAIL YOUR CHECK TO THE SOCIETY AT P. O. BOX 381, ELIZABETHTOWN, KY. 42702.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING

The Hardin County Historical Society will meet Monday evening, January 22, 2001, at the **COMMONWEALTH LODGE**, 708 East Dixie Avenue, Elizabethtown. Dinner will be at 6:30, followed by the program at **7:15 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 the meal, you are welcome to come later.

Dr. Tracy Campbell of Lexington will be the speaker on the subject "**Kentucky's Forgotten Tobacco Wars.**" For a clearer perspective on the plight of tobacco farmers today, Campbell looks back to the tobacco "war" of the early 1900's when Kentucky farmers battled the American Tobacco Company for control of their economic lives. The effort produced the only successful agricultural strike in U. S. history, and a reign of violence.

Campbell, a native of Lexington, is a graduate of the University of Kentucky and received the advanced degrees of M.A. and Ph.D. from Duke University. He is author and historian, and currently serves as Associate Professor of History at the University of Kentucky.

This program is funded in part by the Kentucky Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Call Tamara Taylor (763-1080) or Mary Jo Jones (765-5593) by Saturday, January 20, 2001, for dinner reservations **OR FOR SEATING FOR THE PROGRAM ONLY**. It is helpful for you to make a reservation if you are coming for the program only in order that necessary seating can be arranged in advance.

PLEASE MAIL YOUR CHECK IN THE AMOUNT OF \$8.00 FOR DUES FOR THE YEAR 2001 TO THE ADDRESS BELOW.

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