
Bits and Pieces

of Hardin County History

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JAMES HAYCRAFT IMMIGRANT IN BONDAGE

by Charles A. Haycraft

The history of the Haycraft family in America began in London, England, where James Haycraft was born in December 1719 to James and Hannah Haycraft. He was baptized at St. Andrews Parish Church in the Holburn district of London on December 27, 1719. We know virtually nothing of James' early years except that he was illiterate and took up the occupation of a chimney sweep.

Whether he started as a "climbing boy" is not known for certain, but there is a high probability that he did because that was the usual path to that occupation.

The society of England in that period was highly structured and sharply defined. At the top was the aristocracy. Next was a growing middle class of shopkeepers and merchants. The majority of the population fell into the labouring classes. And here you also found a rigidly structured class system beginning with skilled craftsmen and moving down to a vast variety of servants, labourers and peddlers.

Chimney sweeps were a distinct and peculiar class who were looked down upon as the lowest order of workers even by those who had no right to consider themselves as superior in any way. The nature of a chimney sweep's work was such that it gave him a filthy appearance and an offensive odor. As a consequence, other working people refused to associate with him. "The natural effect of being ostracized led chimney sweeps to herd together apart from others, and to acquire habits and peculiarities of their own widely differing from the characteristics of the rest of the labouring classes."

Those are the words of Henry Mayhew in his studies

of the poor, the labourers, and the criminals of London. He went on to state, "There seems never to have been any attempt made by them to wash the soot off their faces . . . [and] . . . scarcely one of them has a second shirt or any change of clothes, and . . . they wear their garments night and day till they literally rot, and drop in fragments from their backs."

The great majority of chimney sweeps were addicted to drinking, beer being their favorite beverage, either because it was the cheapest or because they believed it to be the most effective for washing down the soot which they swallowed in the course of their work. They were also notorious gamblers, but seldom gambled for money directly. They gathered in low-class drinking houses where they gambled for beer until they were drunk or broke. Mayhew reports that despite the low esteem in which chimney sweeps were held, there were many classes of workers beneath them in intelligence and that chimney sweeps, for reasons unknown, were in many instances shrewd and intelligent.

In 1744 James Haycraft was working with another chimney sweep by the name of Samuel Smytheman, with whom he had committed several burglaries. James had a wife, Ann Henley, to whom he had been married about three years. We do not know if they had any children. Smytheman had a common-law wife, Elizabeth Eaton, with whom he had been living for about a year and a half. The four of them were close friends. About the first of April,

1744, Ann suggested that they break into a hardware store operated by a William Griffith. On April 6, 1744, James and Smytheman worked together chimney sweeping and sold soot for about 16 pence. That night they decided to burglarize Griffith's shop. About 10 PM they, along with Ann and Elizabeth, went to the shop where one of the men broke open the door with a hammer and the two of them entered the shop while the women stood guard outside. They remained in the shop putting goods in sacks until they heard the clock strike midnight, and left. The stolen goods were taken to their homes and the following day taken to Francis Whiting who operated a hardware shop in Holburn near Gray's Inn Gate. Upon hearing their offer, Whiting directed them to a nearby basement ale house where he soon joined them. The goods which were valued in excess of 30 shillings were offered to Whiting for 20 shillings, and after cautious negotiations were bought by him for 9 shillings and 6 pence. Whiting took possession of the goods and displayed them for sale in his shop window.

Meanwhile, back at the scene of the crime, Griffin's wife, Ann, was awakened at 4 AM and informed the shop had been broken into. Somehow, Mrs. Griffith learned that the thieves had disposed of goods of the type stolen from the shop and obtained a warrant for their arrest and for recovery of the goods. The goods were found on display in Whiting's shop window and identified by Mrs. Griffith.

When first interrogated after his arrest, James claimed to have found the goods on the street when returning home, but later agreed to confess in return for having his punishment commuted from death to transportation to the American Colonies.

James and his companions were indicted for "shop breaking and stealing hardware and other things" and confined to Newgate Prison until tried. On April 13, 1744, the four were transported to Old Bailey for the Gaol Delivery Session. James, Smytheman, and Elizabeth Eaton were found guilty and sentenced to transportation to the American Colonies for a period of seven years. James' wife, Ann, was acquitted as acting under the control of James, but she was ordered detained until the next session of Gaol Delivery so that she could give evidence against Whiting for receiving stolen goods.

On April 18, 1744, James Haycraft was led in chains, along with more than 100 other convicts,

to the convict ship *Justicia* which set sail for the Colony of Virginia.

A word about the practice of transporting convicted felons to the American Colonies: In 1718 Parliament passed the Transportation Act providing for the deportation of convicted felons to the Colonies as an alternative to execution. An earlier Elizabethan act had an economic motivation, but this later legislation was essentially for the purpose of ridding England of undesirables. The usual term of indentured labor was seven years.

The administration of the act was a model of simplicity. The British Treasury contracted with a merchant to transport the convicts to the Colonies. For many years this lucrative monopoly was granted to a merchant by the name of Jonathan Forward. Convicts were delivered to Forward on consignment just as if they were pieces of furniture or cases of wine. He then shipped his cargo to the Colonies where he sold them to the highest bidder. His profits were derived from the sale of the convicts. Since his profits depended on delivery of live, healthy goods, there was a substantial motivation to provide reasonable care for the health and comfort of his cargo. Later, Forward convinced Parliament that the price brought by the convicts gave him insufficient profit. Consequently, Parliament agreed to pay a fee per head for shipping the convicts. This fee was generally five pounds per convict payable upon presentation to the British Treasury of a receipt for sale or proof of death during the voyage. This fee had the unfortunate effect of making concern for the health and safety of the convicts less compelling.

The flagship of Forward's fleet was the *Justicia*. Until a few months prior to James' voyage, the captain of the *Justicia* was a Captain Bond. He was a particularly cruel and corrupt man who brutalized, robbed, and deprived convicts of adequate food, water and medical care. Typically, one fourth of his cargo died en route and many of the survivors were unfit for sale because of illness or injury. Bond was eventually tried and convicted for his brutal treatment of his convict cargo. James was fortunate that Captain Jack Campbell, a more compassionate man, had replaced Captain Bond when the *Justicia* sailed with him aboard.

The *Justicia* arrived in Virginia about June 1st. We do not know who bought James because the sale receipt is among a group of records missing from the British Treasury. There is, however, sound

reason to believe James was bought by George Neville, a wealthy landowner in Prince William County, Virginia. James served his seven-year indenture, after which he married and fathered three children who lived to maturity—James, Samuel and Joshua. Family tradition has it that there was also a daughter who died in infancy. Nothing is known of her or her mother. James was living in Frederick County, Virginia, in 1760, about two years before his death. The three boys, who ranged in age from about eight to eleven when James died, were taken into the care of John Neville, the son of George Neville, who was then residing in Winchester, Frederick County, Virginia. While family tradition has the boys raised as members of Colonel Neville's family, there is little doubt that they were indentured servants. In any event, Colonel Neville, who was devoutly religious, was obviously a compassionate and decent person who saw to the care and education of the boys. There is ample evidence that the boys viewed Colonel Neville with affection and respect.

John Neville served as an officer in the Revolutionary War, beginning as Commandant of Fort Pitt (which became Pittsburgh) and later as a Regimental Commander under George Washington in the Northern Department.

Samuel and Joshua served as private soldiers, Samuel at Fort Pitt and Joshua at various places including in forces commanded by the brilliant and revered General Daniel Morgan who arguably won the most important battle of the Revolutionary War. It has been said by some that James also served, but I am not aware of any authority for that belief.

All three of James' sons settled in the vicinity of Elizabethtown, Kentucky. Samuel and his wife, Margaret VanMeter, were with the party led by her father, Jacob VanMeter, on a perilous raft trip from Fort Pitt in 1780 which resulted in the death of at least two members, one killed by Indians and one by drowning. Since no mention is made of James and Joshua as members of that party, it must be assumed they came later. In any event, they settled in the vicinity of Elizabethtown at virtually the same time. From Elizabethtown the descendants of the three sons have spread throughout the United States.

(The author is an eighth generation descendant of the convict. I am indebted to R. R. Thomas for furnishing this article to me. MJJ)



YOUR OFFICERS IN ACTION

Society Vice President Mary Jo Jones and Treasurer Jack Kunnecke, in period dress, sell books and solicit new members at County Court Day in downtown Elizabethtown, October 31, 1998.

JENNY LIND'S VISIT TO ELIZABETHTOWN APRIL, 1851

Jenny Lind, the Swedish soprano, entertained the townspeople of Elizabethtown during a tour of the United States in April, 1851. She had come to the United States in September, 1850, under a contract with P. T. Barnum to give 150 concerts for \$1,000 each.

On April 4, 1851, after having given a concert in Nashville, she embarked by stage coach on her journey to Louisville. The trip over the Louisville and Nashville Turnpike required three days. During the trip, while horses were being changed and during overnight stops, she graciously entertained the local residents. The night of April 4th was spent at Bell's Tavern (now Park City).

Her entourage arrived in Elizabethtown late in the day on April 5th. Accommodations were secured at the Eagle House, a local hotel. As soon as people in Elizabethtown learned of her arrival, a large crowd gathered, begging to hear her sing. As there was not room at the Eagle House to accommodate the big group, Miss Lind went a short distance up the street to Hills' Hotel (now the Brown-Pusey House). She stood upon the stone steps in front and sang several popular songs of the day.

Jenny Lind left Elizabethtown on the northbound stage coach on the morning of Sunday, April 6th. Samuel Beal Thomas of Elizabethtown, owner of the stage line, drove the coach himself. It is said that Miss Lind sat upon the driver's seat with Thomas to enable her to better see the springtime beauty of Muldraugh's Hill.

The first concert in Louisville was held on the evening of April 7th. Every seat was filled, and even standing room was at a premium.

The second concert, on Thursday evening, was as successful as the first. Also appearing on the program with Miss Lind was Signor Beletti and an orchestra.

Mr. Barnum has scheduled only two concerts in Louisville. However, the people there were so anxious for a third one that a Mr. Raine offered Barnum \$5,000 for a third. This offer was so large that Barnum felt he could not turn it down. Consequently, a third concert was given. Receipts of this were over \$6,500. Thus Raine realized considerable profit on the one night's performance.

Tickets to the various concerts in Louisville sold as high as \$175 each at an auction. More than one thousand were sold at prices ranging from one to nine dollars. Standing room was \$3.00, with hundreds unable to get in. Total receipts for the three concerts amounted to \$19,429.50, which was not an unusual amount for three of her concerts. This was, however, a large sum for Louisville, as the 1850 census showed a population of 43,194 for the city.

On Saturday morning, April 12th, Jenny Lind left Louisville with her party aboard the *Ben Franklin*, a riverboat. She was scheduled to give a concert in Madison, Indiana, that evening, prior to her arrival in Cincinnati.

SAM HENRY HARRIS IN THICK OF FRAY

(The Elizabethtown News, June 27, 1916)

Sam Henry Harris, a son of Sam Harris, a drayman, residing in Elizabethtown, is a survivor of the United States Military Company which was attacked by Mexicans at Carrizal. Harris enlisted about four years ago. An Associated Press dispatch yesterday from Columbus, N. M., the scene of the Villa raid several months ago, gives the following account of Harris's exploits:

Sam H. Harris, a private in C Troop of the Tenth Cavalry, was brought to the border late tonight with bullet wounds in the left shoulder and arm, received in the engagement at Carrizal. He said that there were fully 700 Mexicans against the 84 men of the American detachment.

"To top it off," Harris said, "they had a machine gun and they surprised us. We approached them in a peaceful way and never had an idea that they would try to massacre us. Had we known they wanted fight we could have given it to them. I guess they got enough at that."

Harris' troop was surrounded by the Carranzistas, he said. He escaped, wounded, from the cordon the Mexicans had drawn around the Americans by riding straight through their line on his charge, which also had been wounded. He rode this horse until it fell from loss of blood and then caught another fleeing animal, with which he eventually caught up with other survivors, whom he accompanied to field headquarters.

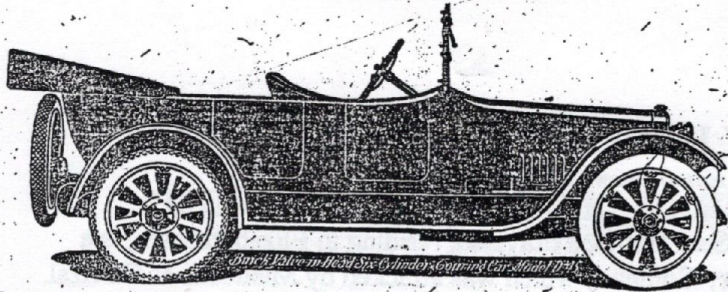
"Our troop, Capt. Boyd commanding, had pulled up before Carrizal. The captain ordered everyone to dismount. I took charge of some animals while their riders stood at attention, while Capt. Boyd went forward. Soon thereafter the shooting started and Capt. Boyd went down. There were easily 700 Mexicans around us. Seemingly they had come up out of the ground, forming a half circle. Our men kept on falling. The first shot came from a machine gun. It was trained right on us.

"It wasn't more than two minutes before the Mexicans had surrounded us. Our troops fought effectively, but we didn't have a show, and I saw it. I was hit in the shoulder and I cut the horses loose and climbing on my animal spurred him toward the thinnest part of the circle. I went right through the Mexicans. My horse ran ten miles before he settled down to a walk. Five miles further on his legs gave out and he went down. I knelt down and poured a little water from my canteen on his tongue, and, I guess he understood, for he got that look in his eyes animals have when they are grateful.

"I walked until I found one of our animals. I mounted him and rode on toward Colonia Dablan. Before I got there I ran into some other survivors, and we went on together."

**DUES FOR 1999 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$8.00 ARE NOW
PAYABLE. PLEASE MAIL YOUR CHECK TODAY.**

Mr. Auto Buyer



I call your attention to my little 6-cylinder 5-passenger Buick, I think the best car on the market for the money. Price \$985. Free demonstration. Come and let me show you.

C. J. TOOPS, Agent

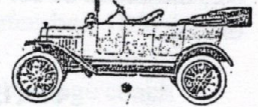
Ford

THE UNIVERSAL CAR

Over a million Ford cars in use today is your best guarantee of satisfactory service. Serving everybody—bringing pleasure to everybody, the Ford car is a utility—your car. The same high quality, with lower prices. Costs least to operate and maintain. Ford service everywhere. The Touring Car is \$410; Runabout \$390; Coupelet \$390; Town Car \$640; Sedan \$740 f. o. b. Detroit. On display and sale at the

ECONOMY GARAGE

Elizabethtown, Kentucky

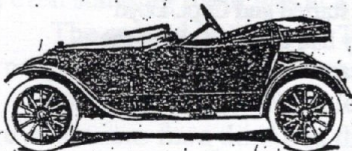


In looking through files of *The Elizabethtown News* for 1915 and 1916, I found advertisements for automobiles which I found interesting. I hope you will, too.

W. J. J.

SAXON ROADSTER \$395

Costs less to run than horse and buggy



The only car under \$400 with these modern features

Modern high speed motor

—provides flexibility, quietness and power to go anywhere.

Moneycomb radiator

—assures perfect cooling; finest type of radiator made.

Sliding gear transmission

—most on all high priced automobiles

Timken axles

—we know of no other axles so good.

Graceful, roomy, streamline body

—distinctive, stylish, classy.

Dry plate clutch

—3200 cars use the same type.

Vanadium steel cantilever springs

—safest riding type of spring suspension.

Saxon is the only car under \$400 that is in the latest automobile fashion—classy in appearance, modern in design. You have to pay much higher prices to duplicate its features IN ANY OTHER AUTOMOBILE.

Saxon is absolutely modern and up-to-the-minute—yet it contains no experimental features. There is nothing freakish about it. Saxon is a proved car. It has been tried in the hands of 30,000 users, in engineers tests, in public contests. Everywhere it has made good.

And don't overlook the Saxon virtue of economy. Saxon costs least to run of any car yet produced. It averages 30 miles per gallon of gasoline; 75 to 100 miles per pint of oil. Half a cent a mile is the Saxon average for car operation—one-fourth of a cent per passenger. Tires last 1,500 to 2,000 miles. A new tire costs the minimum—only about \$7.95.

Saxon Roadster has stylish looks—modern designs, absolute reliability—low upkeep. Each of these qualities is a reason why you should own a Saxon. Buy an automobile that is stylish and modern just the same as you would buy a hat, a suit of clothes, a gown that is stylish. There is only one car in the world under \$400 with these most desirable qualities. That car is the Saxon Roadster—\$395. (Electric starting and lighting, \$60 extra.) Come see it today.



Saxon Roadster \$395 Saxon "Six" \$785

Saxon Motor Co., Detroit

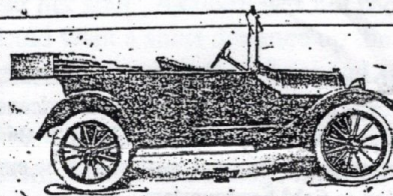
The Jenkins-Essex Co.

Incorporated

Building Material Farm Implements Hardware

The CHEVROLET Cars

Condensed Specifications



—The Chevrolet "Four-Ninety."— Price \$490.00. Self Starter and Electric Lights \$60.00 Extra.

CARBURATOR—Improved double jet Zenith. Pressure feed by automatic pump.

IGNITION—Auto-Lite generator; Connecticut coil and distributor.

COOLING—Thermo-Syphon system radiator of a large capacity with excess circulation, in conjunction with belt driven fan and ventilated hood.

CLUTCH—Large, leather faced, pressed steel cone; expanders under leather to prevent harsh action.

DRIVE—Shaft, two universal joints, the forward telescopic, each enclosed in housing and running in oil bath.

BRAKES—Emergency, internal expanding; service, external contracting; direct on rear wheels, 12 by 1; drums.

WHEELS—Wood, artillery type, fitted with demountable rims, large hub flanges.

STEERING GEAR—Worm and worm gear, adjustable, with ball thrust bearings, 17 inch steering wheel with inserted spiker. Left drive.

FRAME—Pressed steel, channel section, extra strong.

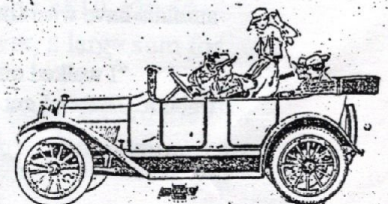
ELECTRIC STARTING AND LIGHTING SYSTEM—Electric Auto-Lite starting motor with Bendix automatic screw pinion drive and lighting system with generator and L. B. A. storage battery.

FINISH—Chevrolet green color on body and wheels; black chassis and fenders.

STANDARD EQUIPMENT—Mohair tailored top, dust hood and complete set of side curtains; ventilating rain-vision windshield, two large size, high-grade, double bulb, electric head lamps; electric tail lamp; all operated by switches on instrument board. Electric horn. All instruments illuminated by electric dash light with extension cord for trouble lamp. Speedometer. Pocket in the doors. Extra demountable rim; tire carrier in rear, set of tools, pump, tire repair kit, jack, license holders.

Monroe Roadster
\$460

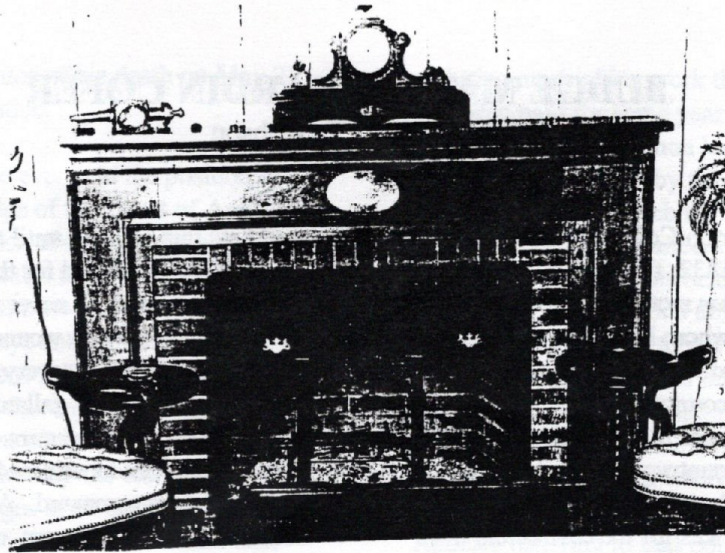
TRANSMISSION—Sliding gear, selective type, three speeds forward and reverse. Running on annular ball bearings.



"Baby Grand" Touring Car. \$750.00 Complete with Self Starter and Electric Lights.

We furnish the above specifications only to give you an idea of the merits of this car. If you are in the market for a car, it will pay you to look "The Chevrolet" over before buying. You may be seen at my garage at any time. We take pleasure in demonstrating the cars to you and assure you there are no better on the market. You must see them to appreciate their real value.

A. H. DOUGLAS, Elizabethtown, Ky.



MANTELPiece MADE BY THOMAS LINCOLN

The mantelpiece (probably made of pine wood) in the Lincoln room of the Leaders Club at Fort Knox, Kentucky, was taken from the building now known as the Lincoln Heritage House at Freeman Lake Park in Elizabethtown. This house was built in 1805 and was originally owned by Hardin Thomas. Samuel Haycraft, Jr., in his book *A History of Elizabethtown, Kentucky and Its Surroundings* written in 1869, made the statement: "He [Hardin Thomas] lived in a house rather better than usual for that day, the carpenter's work of which was executed by Thomas Lincoln, the father of the late President; and the most of that work is to be seen at this day, sound as a trout, although done upwards of sixty years ago."

In the fall of 1919, when Camp Knox was under construction, Major William Radcliffe, a construction quartermaster, lived with his family for a time in Elizabethtown in the home of Mrs. J. F. Albert, a great-granddaughter of Hardin Thomas. From Mrs. Albert, Major Radcliffe learned of the Hardin Thomas house, and from Mr. B. F. Jenkins, the owner of the farm on which the house was then located, he secured for the United States Government the Thomas Lincoln mantelpiece. It was installed in a building called "The Hostess House" at the army post.

After World War I the post was deactivated. Later on, a civilian who lived on the edge of the

reservation thought the mantelpiece was in danger of being destroyed and had it removed from The Hostess House, which had later become a Station Hospital. Without the authority of the United States Government, the mantelpiece was offered first to the Womans Club of Elizabethtown on condition that it be installed in the Brown-Pusey House. However, Dr. William Allen Pusey, one of the donors of the community building, declined to allow this to be done.

The relic was then offered to the Kentucky Pioneer Memorial Association of Harrodsburg, Kentucky, which readily accepted it. However, while the mantelpiece was on display it was not incorporated in the building known as the Mansion Museum, but was attached to the wall adjoining the Music Room.

In 1934 when the army post was again activated, a new Officers' Club was built and Col. J. P. Barney, who was in command at Fort Knox, learned of the mantelpiece, possibly through construction quartermaster records. He took immediate steps to recover the mantelpiece, and his claim to it could not be denied since government funds had originally purchased it. Therefore, the mantelpiece came home to Fort Knox and now has a place of honor in the Lincoln Room.

JUDGE MARTIN HARDIN COFER

by Judge J. P. Hobson

Martin Hardin Cofer was born in Hardin county on April 1, 1832; the son of Thomas Cofer and Mary Hardin; his mother was the daughter of Martin Hardin for whom he was named; he was raised on a farm and what education he received was secured in the country schools. When it is recollected how meager the educational advantages in the country were when he was growing up, it will be understood how imperfect his early education was for the curriculum of each school was mainly confined in that day to reading, writing and arithmetic. In addition to these he studied land surveying as there was much land litigation at that time and in 1852 he commenced surveying in Hardin county. On May 18, 1852, he married Mary E. Bush, a sister of W. P. D. Bush, who was afterwards reporter of the Court of Appeals, and of S. H. Bush, now a prominent lawyer of Elizabethtown. Soon after his marriage he went to Paris, Ill., and while there followed surveying, taking up in the meantime the study of law. He remained in Paris three or four years, then he returned to Elizabethtown where he received license to practice law and opened an office. He practiced law in Elizabethtown until the opening of the Civil War.

In April, 1860, the Hardin County Light Infantry was organized under the state militia law. He was elected captain of the company and was commissioned by the Governor of Kentucky on April 10, 1860. This company kept up its organization until September, at which time many of its members went with its captain south and enlisted in the Confederate army. Captain Cofer was given authority to raise a battalion for the Confederate army. He went with several companies to Bowling Green and there with these and some companies that were with Col. Joe Lewis of Glasgow, the Sixth Kentucky Infantry was organized. Lewis was made Colonel and Cofer, Lieutenant Colonel. He was appointed Colonel of the Sixth Infantry in September, 1863,

and held this position until the close of the war. He was recommended for the appointment as brigadier general but never received his commission. He was wounded at Shiloh, participated in nearly every battle and was promoted colonel for gallant conduct. He was noted for coolness in hours of danger, and the consideration and kindness he always showed to the men of his command. After the war he returned to Elizabethtown, accepting the results of the war promptly and setting himself conscientiously to work to restore peace and good feeling. He began life anew as a lawyer, devoting himself to his practice with indefatigable industry, and was for several years a member of the firm of Hays & Cofer; the senior member of the firm being J. W. Hays, one of the leading members of the local bar.

In 1867 Cofer's Digest of the Kentucky Reports was published—a meritorious work marking the beginning of a better era in the compilation of Kentucky law books. Many have regretted that its author did not longer continue in this field of labor. In May, 1870, he became Circuit Judge of the Third District, which then included nine counties and extended from Owensboro to Elizabethtown. He soon distinguished himself as a Circuit Judge, on account of the courtesy and dignity with which he presided, the rapidity with which he dispatched business and the ability of his decisions. At Brandenburg on May 12, 1871, he rendered the first decision announced from the Kentucky bench as to the admissibility of the evidence of a colored man against a white man. He decided against the current of popular prejudice of the hour, admitting the evidence, and at this day it is hard for us to realize how strong the current of public opinion in Kentucky was against giving such effect to the 14th Amendment of the Constitution of the United States. In August, 1874, he was elected Judge of the Court of

Appeals and at the time of his death on May 22, 1881, was Chief Justice.

No man who ever held the position of Circuit Judge or Judge of the Court of Appeals enjoyed the confidence of those who knew him as an upright and just judge more thoroughly than Judge Cofer. He was a man of decided convictions and always had the courage to express his convictions fully and without swerving. He had a fine legal mind and this he had trained by tireless study of the old masters from the time he undertook the study of law. Lacking the advantages of an early education he supplied this by the constant study of the best English writers and tireless application in the practice of writing. To illustrate, he not only wrote out with his own hand many of his decisions as Circuit Judge but often wrote them out three or four times before delivering them and when asked why he worked so hard on them said he did it for his own benefit that he might express himself more perfectly in writing.

Judge Cofer believed that justice should be administered according to the rules of law; he believed that to administer justice not according to the rules of law was to do the administration of justice a vital injury, although practical justice was in fact done in the case before the court. At the time he went upon the bench of the Court of Appeals there was a great tendency to administer substantial justice rather than to observe strictly the rules of law and no man who ever came upon the bench of the Court of Appeals left a more

enduring mark of his work there. Little attention had been paid for some years to the rules of pleading and the common law books on pleading were little considered by the bar. Not long after he came upon the bench the case of *Huffaker vs. National Bank of Monticello* 12 Bush 287 was decided, in which it was held that a petition on a promissory note was bad unless it averred a promise or agreement to pay. The opinion led to many reversals but it was undoubtedly sound and had in the end a very wholesome effect. Not long after it was rendered, the writer's senior partner came to Frankfort and when he returned this is what he said of the judges of the Court of Appeals referring to that opinion: "Every one of those fellows has Chitty on Pleading in their rooms and is studying it every night." Any number of such illustrations can be given of Judge Cofer's work upon the bench; his opinion rested upon fundamental legal principles and show that the authorities on the subject had been carefully read and mastered by the writer. No judge who sat upon the bench of the Court of appeals for a single term has done the state a greater service than Judge Cofer. He died as he had lived, a plain, unassuming gentleman, thoughtful of others rather than himself, an earnest, simple Christian, leaving a name which is an honor to his family and an honor to his state.

Source: *The Elizabethtown News*, July 14, 1916.

NEW BOOK

The Society has recently printed *James Buchanan in Kentucky, 1813*, by R. Gerald McMurtry. This is a reprint of an article which appeared in *The Filson Club Quarterly* in April, 1934.

Buchanan, a young lawyer later to become President of the United States, lived in Elizabethtown for at least several months in 1813. His father, a land speculator, had acquired several tracts in this area and, there being some question as to the validity of his titles, he sent his son, 21-year-old James, to Hardin County to look after his interests.

The booklet, 15 pages, annotated, is priced at \$2.00. Please include 75 cents for mailing.

COUNTY COURT ORDER BOOK A
HARDIN COUNTY, KENTUCKY
(Continued from last issue)

(Page 422)

Pairpoint examination, Oct. 1803

At a Court called and held for Hardin county on Thursday the 20th day of October 1803 for the examination of Francis Pairpoint Junr charged with having feloniously murdered Robert Kennedy late of said county.

Present Stephen Rawlings, Thomas McIntire & Isom Enlow Esquires.

The above named Francis Pairpoint appeared at the bar, in discharge of a recognizance by him given for his appearance on this day & being then arraigned of the premises pleaded Not Guilty of the fact whereof he stands charged, whereupon several witnesses were sworn and examined against him and the said Francis Pairpoint was heard in his defence. On consideration whereof it is the opinion of the Court that the said Francis Pairpoint is guilty & ought to be tried for the said offence at the next Circuit Court to be held for the Hardin Circuit.

Whereupon he moved the Court to be admitted to bail which was granted him, Whereupon the said Francis Pairpoint together with Francis Pairpoint Senr & George Helm came into Court and severally acknowledged themselves to be held & firmly bound unto his Excellency James Garrard Esquire Governor of the State of Kentucky, that is to say the said Francis Pairpoint Junr in the sum of five hundred dollars, and the said securities each in the sum of two hundred & fifty dollars, to be levied of their respective goods Chattles land and tenaments & to our said Governor & his successors rendered

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yet upon the condition, that if the said Francis Pairpoint Junr shall personally appear at the next Hardin Circuit Court, on the first day of the said Court, and shall not from thence depart without leave of the said Court, then this recognizance to be void, otherwise to remain in full force and virtue in law.

Ordered that court be adjourned until tomorrow morning at six O'clock.

/s/ Step. Rawlings

Friday October the 21st 1803 the Court met according to adjournment. Present the same Justices as on yesterday.

The Court proceeded to take recognizance of witnesses to appear at the next Circuit Court against Francis Pairpoint, who was on yesterday recognized to appear at that Court, to answer Of having feloniously murdered Robert Kennedy late of this county, Whereupon Elizabeth Vertrees & Robert C. Slaughter & Samuel Larue came into Court & severally acknowledged themselves to be held & firmly bound unto James Garrard Governor of Kentucky in the sum of One hundred dollars each to be levied of their respective goods chattles lands & tenaments & to our said Governor & his successors rendered. Yet upon this condition that if they the said Samuel Larue & Elizabeth Vertrees & Robert C. Slaughter shall personally appear before the Honorable the

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Judge of the Hardin Circuit Court at the Courthouse in Elizabeth Town on the first day of the next Circuit Court to be held for the said Circuit, and shall then & there testify & give evidence against Francis Pairpoint Junr of this county touching a certain murder wherewith he stands charged & shall not depart from thence without leave of the said Court, then this recognizance to be void.

Elizabeth Vertrees Claims five days attendance as a witness in behalf of the Commonwealth against Francis Pairpoint at different times, when this court was to have met for his trial.

Samuel Larue claims the same for the same.

Robert C. Slaughter claims three days for same.

John Crutcher claims four days for same.

George Helm claims the same.

Charles Helm claims the same.

Adam Miller claims the same.

Ordered that Court be adjourned.

/s/ Step. Rawlings

(To be continued in next issue)

LETTER FROM ABRAHAM LINCOLN TO SAMUEL HAYCRAFT SELLS FOR \$500 IN 1916

A letter written by Abraham Lincoln to Samuel Haycraft of Elizabethtown, clerk of Hardin County for many years, has just been sold to a New York commission agent for \$500 by Henry Morton of Owensboro, great-grandson of the man who received the letter from the "Rail Splitter." Mr. Morton has had the letter in his possession for many years. It was purchased through H. Barton of New York, a commission man, but Mr. Morton does not know where the old relic is destined to go.

Shortly after Lincoln was nominated by the Republican party, Mr. Haycraft addressed a letter to Springfield and asked Lincoln to visit his old home in Kentucky. New York and Chicago papers heard of the invitation and immediately it was rumored that Lincoln had been invited to Kentucky, the hot bed of democracy, that he

might be assassinated. Lincoln read the newspaper stories and wrote to Mr. Haycraft, assuring him that he realized the absurdity of the charges and thanking him for the invitation. This was the letter which this week brought the great-grandson of Haycraft a check for \$500.

Deeming the old letter of general interest, Mr. Morton in 1901 had it published in the *Owensboro Inquirer*. *The New York Times* investigated the authenticity of the letter and shortly afterward published a special article dealing with the correspondence between Lincoln and Haycraft.

(Source: *The Elizabethtown News*, March 21, 1916.)

**DUES FOR 1999 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$8.00 ARE NOW
PAYABLE. PLEASE MAIL YOUR CHECK TODAY.**

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING

The Hardin County Historical Society will meet Monday, January 25, 1999, at 6:30 PM at the Brown-Pusey House, 128 N. Main Street, Elizabethtown.

The speaker for the evening will be the Rev. Bernard T. Bishop, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Elizabethtown. Brother Bishop is an entertaining speaker, and will relate some of his experiences during his 33-year tenure as pastor in Elizabethtown.

This is an important meeting. Election of officers will be held.

Dinner will be catered by the Stone Hearth Restaurant.

MENU: Baked Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Fruit Gelatin, Rolls, Butter, Coffee, Tea.
PRICE: \$6.25.

Telephone Jack Kunnecke (737-5756) by January 23rd for dinner reservations.

**DUES FOR 1999 ARE NOW PAYABLE. PLEASE
MAIL YOUR CHECK TO THE ADDRESS BELOW.**

HARDIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P. O. BOX 381
ELIZABETHTOWN, KY. 42702

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