

# Indians, Taxes and U.S. Troops Blaze Trail for Kentucky Spirits

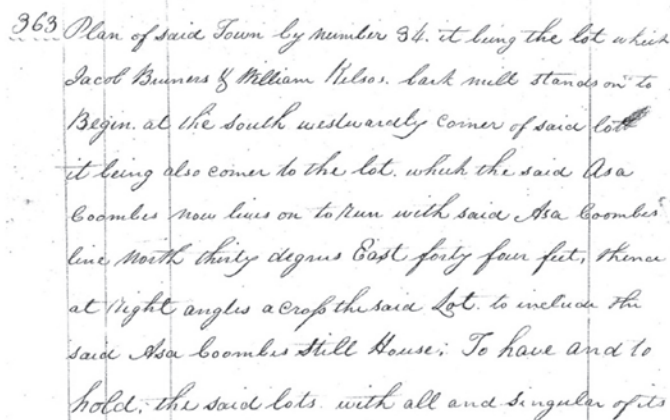
By 1791, the newly established government in the United States was looking for a way to pay off debts incurred during the American Revolution. France and Spain were calling in the huge amounts of cash they had loaned to the colonies to defeat the British, between \$50,000,000 to \$54,000,000 worth of assistance to be exact. Here at home, American paper money was worth less than face value, only rich landholders had the right to vote in the newly established government and far worse than the depression befalling the new nation plagued with debt was the reality of a life and death Indian threat, led by the British, raiding areas west of the mountains in Pennsylvania and Virginia.

The United States launched two major military expeditions against the Northwestern Indians. The first, in 1790, was lead by General Josiah Harmer and the second, in 1791, was lead by General Arthur St. Clair. The Indians soundly defeated both expeditions. To help pay for the military operations against the Indians and British in the western counties, the federal government decided to put an additional tariff on the sale of whiskey at the source.

This new post-Revolution United States of American was bound for rebellion once again as Alexander Hamilton, the Treasury secretary at the time, imposed a new tax. His proposed excise tax on distilling and distilled spirits inflamed an outbreak of violence in Western Pennsylvania, around Pittsburgh, ranging from simply refusing to pay the tax to the tarring, feathering and torturing of excise officers.

Hundreds of families from the area loaded their stills aboard flatboats and headed down the Ohio River to settle anew in the fertile bottom lands of Kentucky ahead of the 13,000 militia men that George Washington personally lead to squash the rebellion.

More than 150 Pennsylvanians were arrested in the offensive, the first time under the new U.S. Constitution that military force was used against American citizens to bring them in line. However, in Kentucky County, Virginia, far from the politics of the American government and where marching 13,000 troops into the frontier was far tougher than launching an attack on western Pennsylvania, pioneer settlers were ready to make use of the cold limestone spring water in their craft. They had additional incentives other than a pure water source to put their stills to the test.



363 Plan of said Town by number 34. it being the lot which  
Jacob Burnes & William Nelson. back mill stands on to  
Begin at the south westwardly corner of said lot  
it being also corner to the lot. which the said Asa  
Coombes now lives on to run with said Asa Coombes  
line North thirty degrees East forty four feet, thence  
at right angles a crop the said Lot. to include the  
said Asa Coombes Still House. To have and to  
hold the said lots with all and singular of its

This July 1800 deed, housed in the Hardin County Court Clerk's office, indicates a still [still house] was a part of local enterprise and a valuable addition to property when recording deeds. **Photo courtesy of Kenneth L. Tabb**

Although it was Washington who first offered incentives to break up the center of resistance to taxation in western Pennsylvania through relocation to western Virginia's Kentucky County, Thomas Jefferson, governor of Virginia, followed by extending the offer of sixty acres of land in the Kentucky frontier. To gain the land all a settler had to do was build a permanent structure and raise 'native corn.' No family could eat sixty acres worth of corn a year and it was too perishable and bulky to transport for sale. Ingenuity prevailed, corn became the base of a highly profitable industry for the farmers of the area. It was much more lucrative operation to distill the corn into an easily transported, high-alcohol liquid that could be used as currency or in barter situations than to deal with heavy and cumbersome bushels of corn. Kentucky spirits were distilled, barreled and floated down the waters of the Ohio River in high demand at the Spanish controlled New Orleans markets. The Scots-Irish, Swiss and German settlers who had migrated west into the then wild frontier of Kentucky while escaping the Whiskey Rebellion in Pennsylvania solved their problems of overages of corn, destined to rot in the fields, and shortage of silver and gold necessary to make a comfortable home. By 1810, some estimates claim that 2,200 stills were operating in Kentucky, pumping out over two million gallons of grain whiskey annually.



Ask Joe...

# Kentucky Moonshine

## Simply The Case Of Operating a Business Without a License?

By Anita Goodin, Hardin County Historical Society member

When asked to write an article about moonshine, I really didn't know much about it, other than what was taught in history class. I began my research in the typical way: the Internet. While I could find endless articles on how moonshine was made, transported, and sold, I wanted a first-hand account of what it was like to make the famous illegal whiskey. Luckily, I was able to find a man who had actually made and "ran" moonshine as a young man and was willing to talk to me about his personal experience.

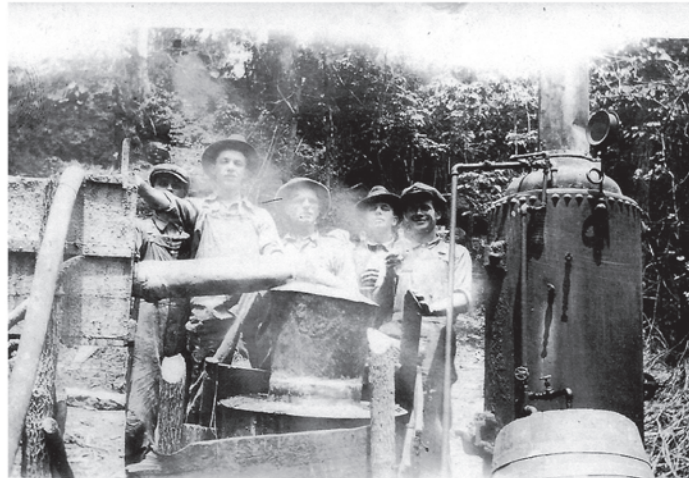
Joe Rogers, was born to Leonard and Mary Pauline Rogers at Howardstown, in Nelson County, Kentucky. As the 4th boy born of a total of 10 children, he understood why his father chose to make moonshine instead of farming. It was next to impossible for him to provide for his wife and children by farming alone.

By the age of 18, Joe was working 8-10 hour days for his father and making around \$20 to \$30 dollars per day. Back then, the average wage was \$1.00 per day for regular farm work. Although this was back-breaking labor, he did it with his father for the next 10 years, and to this day does not regret it.

Leonard Rogers, Joe's father, preferred to use a wood still to make his moonshine. The fact that the whiskey didn't have to be stirred when in wood was one of the reasons. Another major benefit was that the purity of the whiskey was better, as using a galvanized tub could be fatal. Using a wood still and wood whiskey barrels was much more sanitary than using metal. His "still" was actually a 3-part device; a boiler, still, and thumper. It also included a copper tube that was used as a cold water condenser.

The main ingredients used to make moonshine were sugar, corn meal, barley, rye and yeast. Moon shiners usually made either corn whiskey or sugar whiskey. Joe and his father preferred to make the latter, as it had a sweeter flavor than the corn whiskey.

Leonard would begin by cooking the corn meal in boiling water and adding the following ingredients: 50 pounds of sugar, 1/2 gallon of malt, 1/2 gallon of rye, and a 1/2 keg of yeast. It took 6 to 10 whiskey barrels to mix it all in. This mixture, called "mash", was left in 3 vats that were approximately 500 gallons apiece to ferment. After 3 days, the head (or foam) on the whiskey would die, and the mash would



A rare photo of Roger's still at work, hidden in the hills outside of Howardstown. *Photo courtesy of Joe Rogers*

be put into the still. It would then be heated to separate the liquid (moonshine) from the mash. The mash was run through this process multiple times, and therefore stronger proof whiskey was made. The remainder of the mash, called "slop", was then given to cows and pigs to eat. (This made for fat and happy farm animals, I'm sure.)

A recipe using 600 pounds of sugar and the additional ingredients would turn out 70 gallons of moonshine per day. A gallon of moonshine cost about \$7.00 per gallon around 1955.

A stout batch of moonshine was 100 proof. There was also a weaker moonshine produced, called "low wine". This was a cheaper whiskey to buy. Premium moonshine was called "Red Whiskey", so named for its distinct red appearance. It was moonshine that had been aged, and it brought \$20 to \$30 per gallon.

To determine the proof of a batch of moonshine, it had to be measured. Some people used a hydrometer, but the majority of seasoned moon shiners could tell the strength of the whiskey by shaking it and then "reading" the beads on top. The bigger the bead, (or bubble) was, the higher the proof.

Joe also explained to me that there was a distinct difference between bootlegging and moon shining. Bootlegging was done by a more poor class of people, and their watered-down whiskey was sold by the 1/2 pint or pint to anyone. Moon shiners sold their whiskey by increments of 50 to 100 gallons, and it was usually bought by prominent people in the community.

### Moonshine Runners Set Pace for Today's NASCAR

For years, Joe hauled moonshine on back roads for his father. He would modify the car's rear springs to minimize the weight effect of the heavy moonshine in the trunk. This made the car less likely to be noticed by the authorities. Since most of this driving was done at night, and on mountainous back roads in the dark, he became adept at staying one step ahead of the law. This experience led him to start race car driving, which he continued for many years after he quit moon shining for his father.

The authorities he was familiar with back in his moonshine career days were Quinn Pearl, Sr. and Charlie Summers. They were local revenueurs with the ABC (Alcoholic Beverage Control). Back then, stamps could be purchased to haul moonshine through a dry county without fear of being arrested,





Roger's moonshine operation in the Knobs of Kentucky.

*Photo courtesy of Joe Rogers*

but this wasn't always feasible for the moonshine runners. So, they had to employ their driving skills to avoid being caught. Some of the biggest names in NASCAR were moonshine runners who transferred their abilities to stock car racing.

In *From Moonshine to Major Sport*, some of the history of NASCAR is mentioned, including its rapid growth of popularity when moonshine runners joined the ranks and brought their driving expertise to the sport. Men would build cars that had modified suspensions and could be more easily maneuvered around dirt roads at night with no lights. According to Simon Wincer, director of an IMAX film called *NASCAR 3D: The Imax Experience*, there was nothing illegal about the moonshine, but the bootleggers didn't pay tax on the liquor. These guys basically built cars to outrun the IRS and the law. That's why they became so good at racing. (Of course, this was around 1949, when moonshine was no longer considered illegal. The Prohibition Era ended in 1933.)

The documentary details the history of the sport and the part moonshine running played in its success. Included in the film is racing legend Junior Johnson, who is one of the men that started it all. He went from a whiskey runner to the winner of numerous NASCAR stock car racing titles.

#### **Famous Names Mark Area Moonshine History**

In quite another direction, the revenuers played a big role in the history of moonshine. As told in the documentary, *Rumrunners, Moonshiners, and Bootleggers*, Big 6 Henderson was a diligent revenuer that caught 6,000 moon shiners in his career. His most famous catch was Harry Beam of the Jim Beam Distillery family. Harry was the black sheep of the family, and not a part of the Beam Distillery operations. He made moonshine to support his family, and to save his family home. When his mother found out about his arrest, she paid \$1000 to keep his name out of the papers. She didn't want the Beam name to be involved in the scandal.

The documentary also went on to describe the difficult task that the ATF (Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms) had as they fought against bootlegging. They often tracked bootleggers by

word of mouth, watching the hills for smoke, and in later years by using small aircraft to follow the bootleggers to their stills. The ATF would fly 3 to 4 thousand feet above the ground, and when a still was spotted, they would call in their ground team to make the bust. According to the documentary, it took about 10 years for the bootleggers to figure out how they were being tracked so easily. The ATF then had to go back to the older ways of searching them out. But, since most moonshine was made and run at night, the bootleggers obviously knew more than the ATF thought.

Over the years, the ATF was successful in finding numerous stills hidden in the hills. The moon shiners were very creative in hiding their stills, sometimes using abandoned school buses as well as creating a fake cemetery and burying the stills under the gravestones.

Oftentimes, when stills were found, the ATF would bust them open and find dead rats, birds, and other things in the whiskey. This would lead to toxic moonshine, poisonous and deadly to drink.

Luckily, through the years, the making of illegal moonshine has declined. Numerous whiskeys of all varieties are now available and readily purchased off the shelf. The incidence of death or sickness from toxic whiskey has been reduced.

On a personal note, I can understand the need for some to have made moonshine and sell it to support a large family. Joe Rogers and his father made high quality whiskey and did what they had to do at the time. In a way, his father's legacy lives on through him. And I'm grateful for his honesty and willingness to share a bit of this Kentucky history with me. Now, perhaps I can talk him into building a replica of the wooden still he and his father used, and donate it to the Hardin County History Museum to keep this knowledge alive for future generations.

From Moonshine to Major Sport. Online article. [www.NASCAR.COM](http://www.NASCAR.COM).  
*NASCAR 3D: The IMAX Experience*. Wincer, Simon, director. Excerpt from online article. [www.NASCAR.COM](http://www.NASCAR.COM).  
*Rumrunners, Moonshiners, and Bootleggers*. Documentary film made for television. History Channel, 2007.



# A Glimmer From the Past

## ART OF THE SILVERSMITH IN HARDIN COUNTY

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By G.D. Gardner, Hardin County Historical Society member

Beginning in the 1920's and continuing through the Depression and 2nd World War, Americans were becoming fascinated with their past, especially as increased pressures of immigration began to reshape our national identity. Restoration came to the forefront with the efforts at Colonial Williamsburg in 1926, fostering a "Colonial Revival" movement that inspired research and sparked preservation enthusiasm across the county. While Kentuckians had long treasured a rich oral history, accompanied by several good comprehensive history publications beginning in 1784 (John Filson) and followed in 1793 (Imlay) and 1812 (Humphrey Marshall), we had failed until this period of awakening to give just credit to the artists and artisans whose substantial impact upon the Commonwealth's cultural development was nearly lost to time.

In 1931, the landmark publication by Paul Burroughs, *Southern Antiques*, announced to the nation the significance of regional Southern furniture, igniting a fire of interest in long forgotten relics extending to silver, pottery, textiles and fine arts from below the Mason-Dixon Line. Following in the next decade, the importance of Kentucky decorative arts in particular was first made known to the public at large during the 1940's through the New York publication "The Magazine Antiques." In July 1945 a preliminary list of Kentucky silversmiths was printed, followed in 1947 by a Kentucky issue which showcased portraiture, architecture, cabinetmaking, and silver making in early Kentucky. This attention prompted the first generation of collecting and scholarship of coin silver in the Bluegrass, focusing primarily upon those well know, prolific smiths who worked in Louisville, Lexington, and a few other larger communities. Interest became great enough that Noble and Lucy Hiatt published the first actual book on the subject, *The Silversmiths of Kentucky*, in 1954. Their research, though incomplete and at times based on misinformation and faulty legend, gave legitimacy to a field of study that previously would have been dismissed by the academic world who for generations scoffed at the importance of any decorative arts crafted south of Baltimore.

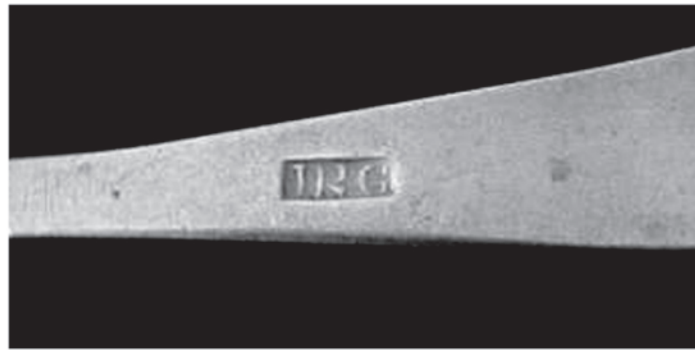
Collecting of Kentucky silver would for the most part remain rather stagnant during the 1960's and early 70's, relegated to the activity of a few individuals and an even fewer dealers who sought out the gleaming juleps and ladles of generations past until "The Magazine Antiques" once again brought attention to

the state and this art with the publication of a new issue in 1974 dedicated solely to the antiques of Kentucky. This issue featured two illustrated articles on Kentucky silversmiths and their products, and firmly established the romantic association of coin silver with the pre-war (antebellum) Bluegrass aristocracy. Collecting and research became newly refreshed, as witnessed in 1980 with the publication of Mark Boultinghouse's most complete biographical reference to date, *Silversmiths, Jewelers, Clock and Watch Makers of Kentucky 1780-1900*. This 368 page work provided enthusiasts with comprehensive backgrounds on the craftsmen, along with photographs of marks and discussions of evolving styles and tastes of silversmiths and their patrons during the 19th century. Here for the first time we find specific references to the work of small town smiths across the Commonwealth, many of which were previously unknown even to local historians.

As with any such work, research is never truly completed. Of the hundreds of craftsmen included, the most obscure simply were not easily found prior to printing. This was the case with the silversmiths of Hardin County. Only those working as jewelers late in the 19th century were readily located and verified through business directories and advertisements of the day. Those active in Hardin County prior to 1860 proved to be much more elusive, their stories being left to the work of succeeding scholars. Actually, Boultinghouse only located one of the true artisans working silver by hand in Elizabethtown before the War. That was D. H. Gardner, who was noted even earlier by local historian Samuel Haycraft where, in his 1869 history, it is recorded, pertaining to the great fire of August that year, the loss of "D. H. Gardner, silversmith, \$500." This blurb might lead one to believe that Gardner was simply a jeweler, the common trend with the advent of industrialized methods of production by that period which made actual handwork by the silversmith inefficient and outdated. Upon further research we find that "D. H." stood for David Holmes Gardner, born July 29th, 1835 to Senator James Jefferson and Elizabeth (Spur) Gardner. By the time of the destructive Elizabethtown fire, Gardner had been at work providing silver to the populace for over 20 years. He had set up his business back in May of 1844 on the "south side of the public square formerly occupied by A. Fairleigh" per the "Kentucky Register" issue for May 14th of that year. Not only does this advertisement give us a span for Gardner's career, it also denotes the end of an earlier silversmith's work in the community.



# ART OF THE SILVERSMITH IN HARDIN COUNTY *cont.*

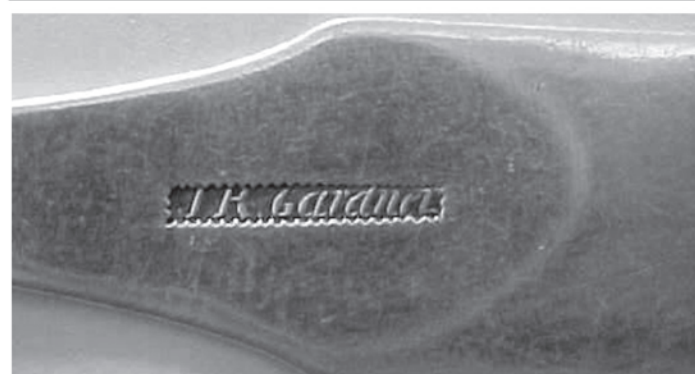


*Clockwise:* Andrew Fairleigh mark on early piece of Hardin County silver. The initials of J.R. Gardner mark early examples of his work while a full last name was used later in this local craftsman's work.

*Photo courtesy of G.D. Gardner*

Again, we turn to the advertisements of the early Elizabethtown newspapers for documentation of the other early Hardin County craftsmen such as Andrew Fairleigh. Born in Elizabethtown in 1808 to Andrew Fairleigh Sr. and Letitia Swan, and a descendant of the famous Dubois family of silversmiths in New York, young Fairleigh had established a shop prior to 1830, as evidenced by his August 26th, 1830 ad in the **"Western Sentinel"** where he indicated he had "re-established himself in his business above Morris' hatter shop." It is not clear where Fairleigh had been working prior to this date. Per his date of birth, one might assume he completed his apprenticeship locally and then tried unsuccessfully to ply his trade away from Hardin County. If he did learn his craft at home or nearby, there were few to whom he could have been apprenticed. Only one man, who still remains a bit of an enigma, J. R. Gardner, might have been capable of becoming his master. Otherwise he might have served his apprenticeship in Bardstown or Louisville. Regardless, Andrew Fairleigh advertised regularly in Elizabethtown until April of 1837 when he took a partner. That year he teamed up with another young local, James Phillips, of that revered old family that settled the southern portion of Hardin County which would become LaRue. James Phillips had left Hardin County in 1827 for Cincinnati where he was apprenticed to another local silversmith, Samuel Musgrove. The partnership of Fairleigh & Phillips may have been short lived, as few surviving examples of their silver, marked "A FAIRLEIGH & CO.," have come to light. Fairleigh would go on to marry Jane Talbott of Elizabethtown in 1843, leaving his business for good in 1844 to relocate in Savannah, Missouri. He would follow the infamous "49'ers" to California to set up a silver and jewelry store, only to die shortly after opening it. His wife and two daughters would later operate a hotel in Sacramento, California. It is unknown if Phillips followed Fairleigh to Missouri, though the use of their mark on silver from the 1840's could indicate as such. It is also possible that these examples were all crafted in Hardin County before his departure and the dissolution of Fairleigh and Phillips's partnership.

Samuel Musgrove, already mentioned, is generally associated with LaRue County, but to keep in context with the period, he was actually born (ca. 1800) & raised in Hardin County in that portion which would be cut off in 1843 to form the new county.



His father, the Scotchman Cuthbert Musgrove, was a pioneer educator in the county, having migrated from Scotland to Virginia and finally to Hardin County via Lexington and Springfield, Ky. He completed his apprenticeship and went into partnership by 1820 in Cincinnati, inferring that perhaps he learned his trade in that city. Musgrove remained active as a silversmith in Cincinnati until the early 1840's, at which time he may have worked for a brief period in Maysville, Ky. LaRue County records indicate, though, that he had relocated his family back to the community of his birth by about 1847 or 1848. This is substantiated by the Federal Census of 1850 which lists Samuel Musgrove as a gold and silversmith residing in LaRue County (Hodgenville). His tenure in his old home was brief. Records indicate he had moved again, this time to Nashville, Tennessee, by 1851 where he remained until the beginning of the War Between the States. From that point on his whereabouts remains a puzzle. It is plausible, though, that he moved a final time to be near his parents and siblings in Glasgow, Barren County, Kentucky. To have been an obscure small town smith, Musgrove was fairly prolific in his output during his 40+ year career as attested to by the surviving examples of silver bearing his mark of "S MUSGROVE." Samuel's sister Nancy married George Thurman whose descendants remain in Hardin and LaRue Counties even now. That branch would have collateral descent with the Phillips family that included James who had been sent to Samuel Musgrove to learn the "art and mystery" of the silversmith.

Our final Elizabethtown silversmith, J. R. Gardner, was likely the earliest to have worked in that community. In addition, the least is known about him. His advertisements in the **"Kentucky Register"** start appearing in 1837 but either Gardner, or his father by the same name, were active locally much earlier than this as proven when their surviving output is examined stylistically. Only a handful of silver spoons exist to mark Gardner's career, all of a form indicating fabrication in the



# ART OF THE SILVERSMITH IN HARDIN COUNTY *cont.*

1830's and earlier. One pair of spoons, bearing a variant initial mark of "JRG" was fashioned for the Owsley family of Hodgenville and sports a modified "coffin end" handle which had been in fashion ca. 1800-1810. Gardner likely, though, was copying a style in vogue the generation before but still popular with his local customers in Hardin County. The original owner, Epsworth Owsley, was active in land & slave transactions ca. 1819-1827, so it is logical to assume the spoons that Gardner crafted for his family date to ca. 1820, though likely not much later and maybe a few years prior. All other existing spoons by Gardner reflect in design a date late in the 1820's or early 1830's, and bear his full script mark of "J R GARDNER." Of all the smiths, excepting Phillips to whom no surviving example is attributed solely, J. R. Gardner's work must be considered the rarest.

One last craftsman can be included in this list due to his activity in the county on the eve of the War, after which virtually no silver would be crafted by hand again in Kentucky. E. S. Kimber called himself a silversmith in his 1860 listing for the **Kentucky State Gazetteer & Business Directory**, but his advertisements locally in the Elizabethtown papers for 1859 describing himself as a clock and watchmaker were likely more accurate. In essence, Kimber was a jeweler who retailed coin silver made in Philadelphia or New York, along with clocks from Connecticut and jewelry purchased from the wholesalers in Cincinnati or Louisville. Silver may someday come to light with his mark, but by the middle 19th century most silversmiths had evolved into retailing jewelers, buying cheaper, mass produced silver from large scale manufactures. These large silver houses accepted orders directly from the small town jewelers, stamping spoons & other items with their name & sometimes their town as well, along with a name or logo for the manufactures. (Numerous examples of coin silver are documented with names of Kentucky silversmiths like William Kendrick or J. B. Akin, along with the initial PLK for Peter L. Krider of Philadelphia.) It was simply a more cost effective and efficient way to sell silver. These local tradesmen could not compete with the northern manufacturers who fabricated rolled sheets of silver and stamped out decorative bands and parts to make silver in an assembly line-like fashion. Even more damaging to silversmiths in towns like Elizabethtown were the larger silver shops in Louisville, who advertised in the local papers each week in direct competition with the small town smith or jeweler. With the introduction of rail lines, commerce outside of Elizabethtown was a possibility not considered previously by consumers, and the small communities and counties to the south became a whole new target market for the Louisville wholesalers. Thus, men like Kimber represented the last of their trade in central Kentucky. With the approach of war and a devastated economy, there would never again be a demand for hand crafted coin silver.

These few men may not be the only ones to have worked in Hardin County as craftsmen in silver, but they are the sole representatives of their craft found so far that can be attributed with complete certainty to Elizabethtown and the surrounding area. The research provided here is preliminary at best, and it is hoped by the author that future historians will delve further into this project to better develop the full story of their work and

**WATCHMAKER**  
AND  
**Repairer.**  
**E. S. KIMBER,**  
HAS taken a room one door East of Jacob  
Knaußmann Where he will do all kinds of  
**WATCH, CLOCK**  
AND  
*Jewelry Repairing*  
on the shortest notice.  
Those who have Watches or Clocks which  
they want Repaired, will do well to give me a  
call as I warrant my work to give entire satis-  
faction, or money refunded.  
Watch glasses put in for 25 cts.  
**E. S. KIMBER, Watchmaker.**  
Elizabethtown, Ky.  
April, 11 6m.

A local Elizabethtown Pre-Civil War newspaper ad for local silversmith in the business of watchmaking, repair and repair of jewelry.

*Photo courtesy of G.D. Gardner*

legacy to the cultural history of Hardin County and Kentucky.

Following the War, the following jewelers are found associated with Hardin & surrounding counties (dates reference periods of advertisement in the communities only):

- J. H. Adams- Hudsonville, Breckinridge County, active 1859
- Doctor H. Allen- Brandenburg, active 1879
- John A. Allen- Grayson County, active 1876
- George H. Casperke- Brandenburg, active 1887-1894
- Virgil H. Churchill- Elizabethtown, active 1879-1892
- Mrs. Virgil Churchill- Elizabethtown, active 1893-1894 ("Manufacturing Jewelers")
- W. H. Cooper- Hodgenville, active 1887-1894
- Frederick N. D'Huy- Hardinsburg, active 1887-1892
- Thomas F. Duncan- Elizabethtown, active 1876-1880
- D. H. Gardner- Elizabethtown active until 1880 (jeweler)
- A. A. Grief- Big Spring, active 1887-1892
- D. P. Kasey- Vine Grove, active 1879-1880
- P. R. Kasey- Big Springs
- T. C. Lewis- Hardinsburg, active 1887-1894
- L. C. Lock- Buffalo (LaRue County), active 1887-1892
- J. A. Mahan- Brandenburg, active 1893
- R. L. Marshall- Elizabethtown, active 1891
- J. P. McClure- Leitchfield, active 1891
- Carl Ruhl- Elizabethtown, active 1879-1888



# Hardin County Settlers Fight Back

By Meranda Caswell, Hardin County Historical Society member

The Miami Native Americans originally lived in Indiana and southern Michigan. They moved into the Maumee Valley around A.D. 1700 and soon became the most powerful Indian tribe in Ohio. The Miamis were allies of the French until British traders moved into the Ohio country around A.D. 1740. The French forced the British out of Ohio and the Miamis allied themselves with the French again until the British victory in the French and Indian War. As French trading posts turned into British forts, the Ohio Native Americans banded together to fight the British. During the American Revolution, the Miami fought with the British against the Americans. After the defeat of the British they continued to fight the Americans.

After the Revolutionary War, the violence that increased with Euroamerican settlement of the Ohio River valley soon brought the United States into direct conflict with the residents of Kethtippecanunk. Little Turtle, a great Miami chief, led a force of Miamis and other Native Americans to victory over the army of General Harmar in 1790, called Harmar's Defeat. As a result of their hostility to increased white presence, the U.S. government authorized a punitive expedition against the Native American towns of the Wabash River. President George Washington ordered the destruction of the Wabash Native villages. This command, carried out by General Charles Scott with 900 Kentucky militia who burned all crops and houses, brought the era of Ouiatenon, the main Wea Native American village west of present day Lafayette, Indiana, to an end. The troops arrived at their destination the 1st of June after an estimated march of one hundred and sixty miles through the forest with only varying trails for road. General Scott reported that: "Many of the inhabitants of this village [Ouiatenon] were French and lived in a state of civilization. By the books, letters, and other documents found here it is evident that the place was in close connection with and dependent on Detroit. A large quantity of corn, a variety of household goods, peltry, and other articles were burned with this village which consisted of about seventy houses, many of them well finished." On June 4th,



Little Turtle, a great Miami chief, prevailed during Harmar's Defeat

General Scott set free sixteen of his prisoners who were in poor condition to withstand the march, giving to their care a well-worded letter, addressed to all the tribes along the Wabash, requesting peace, and informing where his retained prisoners could be found. The severe rains and the swollen condition of the streams, with his forced marches through the almost trackless forest, had disabled his horses and, his supplies being depleted, he reluctantly directed the march southward instead of toward the Maumee River, and arrived at the Rapids of the Ohio. General Scott would later serve as Kentucky's Governor, 1808-1812.

**Did YOU?**  
Happen  
To **Know** ●

A force of 1,453 men (320 Regular U.S. Troops, 1,133 militia) under Brigadier General Josiah Harmar marched northwards from Fort Washington on the Ohio River at 10:00 a.m. on October 7, 1790. On October 22, near present-day Fort Wayne, Indiana, Harmar committed only 400 of his men under Col. John Hardin (*namesake of the county*) to attack an Indian force of some 1,100 warriors.

When a courier informed Harmar (rumored to be drunk) of the size of the enemy force, out of fear he refused to come to Hardin's aid. Had he supported Colonel Hardin with the other 800-900 men, the Indian force might have been defeated, but instead, he formed his part of the army into a hollow defensive square, and did not move. Hardin, expecting reinforcements put up a valiant fight for over three hours, then fell back to the main army's encampment and Harmar ordered a retreat back to Fort. Washington.

Harmar was subsequently court-martialed, at his own request, on various charges of negligence, and exonerated.



# Hardin County Settlers Fight Back cont.

“The Muster Roll of Capt. James Brown’s company of mounted Kentucky volunteers in the service of the United States against the Wiaw Indians, commanded by Brig. Gen. Charles Scott - ‘mustered in at the Rapids of the Ohio, June 15, 1791, by Capt. B. Smith, 1st U. S. regiment’ - is still preserved. It consisted of 1 captain, 1 lieutenant, 1 ensign, 4 sergeants, and 71 privates present and 1 absent (James Craig, who was “lost in the woods” while traveling from the interior of Louisville)”.

**James Brown was Kentucky’s first Secretary of State, 1792-1796. His parents were Rev. John Brown and Margaret (Preston) Brown. He commanded a company of riflemen in an expedition against the Northwest Native Americans.**

<i>Capt: James Brown</i>	<i>Robert Conn</i>	<i>Thomas Hanna</i>	<i>Robert Patterson</i>
<i>Lt: William McConnell</i>	<i>James Craig</i>	<i>William Hanna</i>	<i>John Peoples</i>
<i>Ensign: Joshua Barbee</i>	<i>Robert Curry</i>	<i>Randolph Harris</i>	<i>Arthur Points</i>
<i>1st Sgt: Joseph Mosby</i>	<i>William Davidson</i>	<i>John Henderson</i>	<i>Francis Points</i>
<i>2nd Sgt: Adam? Hanna</i>	<i>William Dougherty</i>	<i>Andrew Hodge</i>	<i>Percy Pope</i>
<i>3rd Sgt: Samuel McIlvain</i>	<i>Hugh Drennon</i>	<i>David Humphreys</i>	<i>Samuel Porter</i>
<i>4th Sgt: William Kincaid</i>	<i>Nathaniel Dryden</i>	<i>David Humphries</i>	<i>Benjamin Price</i>
<i>? Adams</i>	<i>Alexander Dunlap</i>	<i>Robert Irvin</i>	<i>William Reading</i>
<i>William Baker</i>	<i>James Dunlap</i>	<i>Samuel Jackson</i>	<i>William Rogers</i>
<i>Edward Bartlett</i>	<i>Robert Elliston</i>	<i>Gabriel Jones</i>	<i>George Sia</i>
<i>Alexander Black</i>	<i>Matthew English</i>	<i>David Knox</i>	<i>William Smith</i>
<i>John Brown</i>	<i>James Fergus</i>	<i>James Knox</i>	<i>John Speed</i>
<i>Samuel Buckner</i>	<i>John Ferrell</i>	<i>Nicholas Leigh</i>	<i>John Stephenson</i>
<i>? Burk</i>	<i>Benjamin Fisher</i>	<i>Richard Lewis</i>	<i>Joseph Stephenson</i>
<i>William Bush</i>	<i>Morgan Forbes</i>	<i>George Loar</i>	<i>Robert Stephenson</i>
<i>John Caldwell</i>	<i>John Fowler</i>	<i>Abraham McClelland</i>	<i>Samuel Stevenson</i>
<i>Phillips Caldwell</i>	<i>Alexander Gilmore</i>	<i>Joseph McDowell</i>	<i>John Strickland</i>
<i>Peter Carr</i>	<i>Job Glover</i>	<i>John McIlvaine</i>	<i>Edmund Taylor</i>
<i>John Caswell</i>	<i>John Hadden</i>	<i>Moses McIlvaine</i>	<i>Stephen Trigg</i>
<i>William Clark</i>	<i>Robert Hall</i>	<i>James Nourse</i>	<i>Joshua Whittington</i>

The following day, 360 men under Lieutenant Colonel James Wilkinson were dispatched to destroy Kethtippecanunk. After a short fight, the residents fled, and the town was burned to the ground. The river was at flood and soldiers were sent above and below to effect a crossing, which was done by swimming, and the Savages were dislodged. Meantime Colonel John Hardin’s command had discovered a stronger village on the left which they surprised, killing six Savages and taking fifty-two prisoners. However, Little Turtle led another force of Miamis and other Indians to victory over the army of General St. Clair in 1791, called St. Clair’s Defeat- a total of 832 Americans killed. Approximately one-fourth of the entire standing United States Army had been wiped out. Only 24 of the 920 troops engaged came out of it unscathed. Native American casualties were around 61. The number of soldiers killed alone was more than three times the number the Sioux would kill 85 years later at Custer’s last stand at the Little Big Horn.

The following document is in the Indiana Historical Society: “George Washington, President of the United States of America, To all to whom these Presents shall come: Know Ye, That the nation of Indians called the Wiatonon inhabiting the town of Wiaw and other towns, villages, and lands of the same community, are, in their persons, towns, villages, lands, hunting-grounds and other rights and property in the peace and under the protection of the United States of America: And all persons, citizens of the United States are hereby warned not to commit any injury, trespass or molestation whatever on the persons, lands, hunting-grounds, or other rights or property of the said Indians: And they and all others are in like manner forbidden to purchase, accept, agree or treat for, with the said Indians indirectly or indirectly, the title or occupation of any lands held or claimed by them; and I do hereby call upon all persons in authority under the United States, and all citizens

thereof in their several capacities, to be aiding and assisting to the prosecution and punishment according to law of all persons who shall be found offending in the premises. Given under my hand and the Seal of the United States this Seventh day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety-three and of the Independence of the United States of America the seventeenth. George Washington, By the President. Thomas Jefferson, Secretary of State.”

The Archaeological Survey of IU-PU at Fort Wayne recently received a \$35,625 grant to continue archaeological survey and assessment of the Kethtippecanunk site in Tippecanoe County, Indiana. Kethtippecanunk was a mixed French and Wea Indian town that was burned by the Kentucky militia in 1791. The site is currently state-owned and is within the limits of Prophetstown State Park.

Hardin County was named after John Hardin. He volunteered under George Rogers Clark for the Wabash expedition and was appointed Quartermaster. Thenceforward until his death he participated in every excursion into Native American territory, with the exception of St. Clair’s defeat. Joseph Hodgen, was a soldier who was killed by the Miami Indians in St. Clair’s defeat. Major Patrick Brown survived St. Clair’s defeat. John Helm, Stephen Cleaver, and John Thomas survived St. Clair’s defeat; their comrade Colonel Oldham was mortally wounded. Thomas S. Crutcher, a volunteer on General Hopkins campaign on the Wabash, about Tippecanoe, was later a clerk of the Hardin County Court. Duff Green volunteered in a company called the Yellow Jackets, commanded by Governor W. P. Duvall, and went on a campaign up the Wabash against the Native Americans in 1811. Spier Spencer had fought with St. Clair and Wayne, only to die in the War of 1811. Peter Kennady was taken prisoner by the Wabash Native Americans in 1781, but escaped two years later. Another prisoner of the Wabash,



# Hardin County Settlers Fight Back cont.

Christopher Miller, age 15, spent 11 years with the Wabash. In 1794, he was taken from them by the spies (one of whom was his brother, Nicholas Miller) of General Wayne. John Muldraugh was captain of the Militia of Nelson County in 1791. General Anthony Wayne finally defeated the Miamis and other Ohio Native Americans at the Battle of Fallen Timbers in 1794. Hardin County was no longer under attack by Native Americans after the Battle of Fallen Timbers. The Miamis and other Ohio Native Americans surrendered most of their lands in Ohio with the signing of the Treaty of Greenville. In 1818, the United States forced the Miamis to give up their last reservation in Ohio

The following Hardin Countians, as recorded in the Court Order Book A, were paid for their services against the Wabash Native Americans under the command of Gen. George Rogers Clark:

**Aaron Braden**  
**Abner Fields**  
**C. Fields**  
**Lewis Fields**  
**Abraham Hunter**  
**Adain Coombes**  
**Capt. Moses Kirkendall**  
**Captain Jacob Vanmatre, Sr.**  
**Charles Bush**  
**Cornelius Cummins**  
**Elisha Phillips**  
**Hardin Thomas**  
**Henry Helm**  
**Isaac Goodwin**  
**Israel Dodge**  
**Jacob Pental**  
**James Focker**  
**James Johnston**  
**James Sullivan**  
**John Carson**  
**John Dial**

*A Pay roll of Scouts called from the 3<sup>d</sup> Regiment of Kentucky militia for the frontiers of Hardin county from the 24<sup>th</sup> of march to the 6<sup>th</sup> of May in the year 1794*

Number	Names	Commencement of Service	Expiration of Service	Pay & Day	Amount of Pay Due
1	Nicholas Miller	Mar. 24 <sup>th</sup> 1794	April 5 <sup>th</sup> 1794	5 <sup>th</sup>	Ten dollars Eighty three Cts
2	Edward Rawlings	"	"	"	Ten dollars Eighty three Cts
3	Samuel Bush	"	"	"	Ten dollars Eighty three Cts
4	John Hargis	Mar. 24 <sup>th</sup>	May 6 <sup>th</sup>	"	Twenty four dollars & three Cts
5	Jacob Wise	Mar. 28 <sup>th</sup>	April 16 <sup>th</sup>	"	Sixteen dollars sixty two Cts
6	Martin Williams	"	"	"	Sixteen dollars sixty two Cts
7	Moses Springston	Mar. 29 <sup>th</sup>	April 19 <sup>th</sup>	"	Sixteen dollars sixty two Cts
8	John Powers	"	"	"	Sixteen dollars sixty two Cts

*I Hardin County I do hereby certify that the above named men were ~~scouts~~ before me a Justice of the peace for & on to the faithful discharge of their duty agreeable to the number of days as stated*

*I do hereby certify that Nicholas Miller Edward Rawlings Samuel Bush John Hargis Jacob Wise Martin Williams Moses Springston & John Powers were appointed by me as Scouts on the frontiers of Hardin county also do certify that there was real necessity for the <sup>same</sup> from the attacks of the savages on a frontier of above a hundred miles in extent belonging to &c*

*P. Brown L.C. 3<sup>d</sup> 1794*

Payroll document signed by Patrick Brown for some of the Hardin County Scouts who served under General George Rogers Clark against the Wabash Native Americans.

Photo courtesy of Brown-Pusey House Library

**John Vertrees**  
**Nicholas Coombes**  
**Robert Lasley**  
**Sam Dooley**  
**Samuel Goodin**  
**Thomas Amos**

**Thomas Winn**  
**Thompson Ashby**  
**Uriah Thompson**  
**William Christian**  
**William Cornelius**  
**James Frakes**

**William Johnston**  
**William Miller**  
**William Wells**  
**Isaac Goodwin**  
**James Sullivan**  
**Hardin Thomas**

The Wabash at its confluence with the Ohio, is 306 yards wide and it discharges a great quantity of a muddy kind of water into the Ohio River. Heavy rains cause it to be muddy, filled with foam resulting from caving bank upstream. Normally the Wabash is not a muddy river. Several different travelers, from the 1500s to the early 1800s, have written about the Ohio River including Captain Henry Gordon, Andrew Ellicott, George H. Victor Collot, Thomas Hutchins-geographer of US in 1781, General Harmar, and John Filson.



# Book Preview

By Meranda Caswell,  
Hardin County History Museum Curator

All ages enjoy a treasure hunt as long as the spoils can be found. Today some people have controlled hunts, such as Easter egg hunts, scavenger hunts, even games of skill and chance for prizes. Recent movies, such as *Da Vinci Code*, *Pirates of the Caribbean* and *National Treasure*, have received much press due to the natural curiosity of a treasure hunt. Others search for geological natural sources like silver, gold, salt, oil, gas and water. Yet many continue to search for manmade sites and items using historic records.

Robert A. "Tony" Prather has a theory about the location of a legendary lost silver mine. This legend began in the mid 1700s which had been associated with the name "Swift." In his hardback book entitled, *The Strange Case of Jonathan Swift and the Real Long John Silver*, Prather compares the fictional novel *Treasure Island* written by Robert Louis Stevenson to the historic legend of the Lost Silver Mines of Swift. Illustrated with photos and documents, this work is divided into three parts: 1) biographical history of Jonathan Swift 2) the hypothesis of Swift Silver Mines in Kentucky 3) and an analysis of *Treasure Island*.

Prather has researched land records of Kentucky and Virginia, official histories concerning Jonathan Swift, and Masonic records of Alexandria, Virginia. Jonathan Swift, b 1764 d. 1820s, had married Ann Roberdeau who was a daughter of a silver miner. Swift was the merchant owner of Swift and Company on the eastern seaboard in Alexandria, Virginia. He had purchased several parcels of land in Washington, Breckinridge, Meade and Hardin County. Perhaps by coincidence, land acquired by Thomas Lincoln, the father of President Abraham Lincoln was adjacent to the lands purchased by Jonathan Swift. Are the proposed lost silver mines on this Swift land which is adjacent to the Fort Knox Gold Bouillon Depository? Jonathan Swift was a personal friend of President George Washington and a fellow mason. As a land surveyor, Washington had surveyed many lands in Kentucky.

Where is the location of the legendary lost silver mines? Follow Robert Prather on his hunt for the silver. Use this book as your treasure map. "X" marks the spot.

The Hardin County History Museum's upcoming spring exhibit is "The Swift's Lost Silver Mine." This Acclaim Press book is available for purchase at the Museum, open 10 AM to 2 PM Tuesday thru Saturday.

**Drink Genuine  
Durham Lemon Sour.**

Why drink artificial flavored Lemon Sour when you can get the genuine? We use pure cane sugar in making our syrup. No artificial sweetener, nor artificial flavor used in our Lemon Sour. We make the purest, cleanest and best goods on the market.

**The Durham Bottling Works, Inc.**  
Elizabethtown, Ky.

**Drink Genuine *Durham* Ginger Ale**

"The Real Summer Drink, Its the Best Made"

We use nothing but pure cane sugar in making our syrup. No artificial sweetener nor artificial flavor used in our Ginger Ale.

Look at the Crows and Labels used by other Bottlers and see if you are not drinking artificial made goods. Do not drink cheap made goods when you can get the best for the same money. Some dealers buy the artificial goods because they can buy them cheaper.

If your dealer does not handle our goods we will supply you direct.

To the family trade in Elizabethtown and Vicinity—  
Clip this ad out, it is worth ten cents on your first order sent to us direct or through any dealer for a case or more of our famous drinks.

**The Durham Bottling Works, Inc.**  
ELIZABETHTOWN, KENTUCKY.

Left: Newspaper advertising for The Durham Bottling Company appearing in *The Mirror*, September 4, 1915, and *The Elizabethtown News*, August 22, 1913.



Right: Empty bottle, from the Durham Bottling Company established in 1809, as preserved in the archive collection of the Hardin County History Museum.

The *Elizabethtown News* of date Aug. 19, 1913, published the following account of one of its celebrated businesses.

## DURHAM ENJOYS BANNER WEEK. Puts Out 1,238 Cases of Soft Drinks and Makes New High Record.

The popular and enterprising Durham Bottling Works last week enjoyed the biggest single week's business of the summer, which has been one of the most successful seasons in the history of the establishment in Elizabethtown. During the six days from August 11 to 16 they shipped out a total of 1,238 cases of soft drinks and 386 dozen of bottle of their celebrated cream brew. Included in this immense shipment was a full carload of all kinds of drinks to be sought after by the thirsty people of Bullitt County during their annual fair this week. These big shipments, however, do not represent the total amount of business done, as there was such a rush of orders that some went over Sunday unfilled.

Durham's success in business which has been so steady and phenomenal is due to the purity of his drinks. They are put up in the most sanitary manner, and it was no surprise to Mr. Durham that a pure food inspector who viewed the plan recently gave him a number one certificate, and told him that in his travel through Kentucky he had found but one other bottling works as clean and sanitary.

The excellence of Durham's drinks is attested by the large custom he has in towns where bottling works are located. Among them are: Louisville, Columbia, New Albany, Bowling Green, Campbellsville, Glasgow, Russellville, Grayson Springs, and Leitchfield. Everybody knows that the home dealers are always given the choice but Durham's drinks are so much better than the others that he has no trouble in meeting and overcoming competition.



# Message From The President

I had a wonderful lunch with Kenny Tabb last week, and meant to ask him one important question—exactly how big a shoe do you wear? The reason I meant to ask this question is that I am somewhat concerned about filling them!

It is with great pride and some apprehension that I am excited to begin my term as President of our Hardin County Historical Society. In the short time that I have been a member (joining in Jean Davis' last year as President), I have seen our meetings relocated to a renovated State Theater, a Museum built in a renovated Post Office/Library, and a large increase in membership. With the Lincoln Bicentennial celebration on our doorstep and a

wonderful slate of officers and resources to work with, I envision a wonderful and enlightening term ahead of us. I look forward to participating with all of you in our shared interest. I only ask for your patience in learning your names; please take the opportunity to introduce yourself to me, as I will certainly do the same. Unlike Mr. Tabb, I do not have employment that allows me the opportunity to see many of you on a regular basis—even if it is in paying your taxes!

And as I am beginning new to the office, our guest speaker is additionally new to her role. In keeping with the Lincoln theme, we are honored to have joining us Betsy B. Smith in the role of "Emilie Todd Helm: Rebel in the White House". A native of Cynthiana and graduate of Georgetown College, Ms. Smith joins us for one of her first performances as both half-sister of Mary Todd Lincoln and wife of General Benjamin Hardin Helm. She can brag, however, that her family has been well represented at our meetings—her husband, Ed, performed for us in October 2006 as legendary UK coach Adolph Rupp. Be sure to give her a warm Hardin County welcome.

So come and enjoy an evening of good food and hospitality with Emilie Todd Helm at our next meeting on January 28th.

- Jeff Lanz

## Friendly Reminder....

### HCHS Annual Membership Dues Are Now Due

For Your Convenience Payment Will Be Accepted At The January Meeting!

*You Are Cordially Invited To Attend The Hardin County, KY*

**Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Kick-Off Gala**

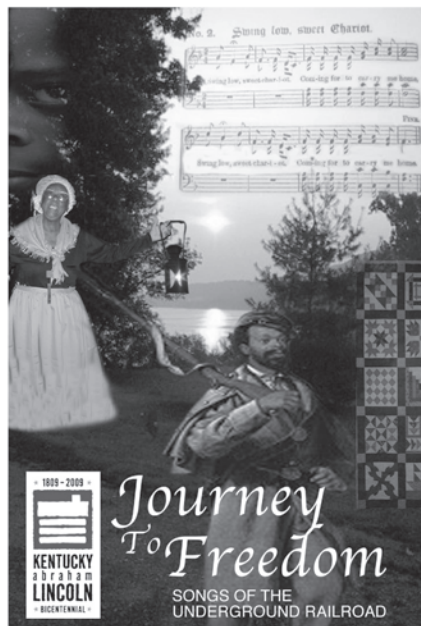
**February 9, 2008  
7:00 P.M.**

**401 West Poplar St., Elizabethtown, KY  
at the Old Severns Valley Baptist Church**

*Spirituals were a spontaneous outpouring in music of the Negro slave's deep religious faith. This devotedness did not blind him to his wrongs, and many slave uprisings occurred in the two decades preceding the Civil War. But the slave's faith clarified for him the paradox of "man's inhumanity to man" without lessening his confidence in God and ultimate justice. Therefore, the Negro sang of a celestial home where at last he would have his rightful place as a free being while working towards the same goal here on earth. Come hear the First Baptist Church Choir perform some of these moving songs to a drama especially written by Hardin County's first Black Church Congregation telling the story of their ancestor's remarkable journey to freedom.*

## THIS IS A FREE PROGRAM

Funding for this program provided in part by Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, Kentucky State Historical Society, Kentucky State Humanities Council, Marvin & Joyce Benjamin Fund, Hardin County History Museum, Hardin County Educational & Community Television, WQXE-FM Radio 98.3, and First Baptist Church Choir





# Historical Society announces next meeting

The Hardin County Historical Society will meet Monday evening, January 28, 2008, at the STATE THEATER GALLERY, 209 West Dixie Avenue, in downtown Elizabethtown. The buffet dinner, catered by BACK HOME, will be served at 6:30 PM. The price is \$7.50 per person. Call Mary Jo Jones at 765-5593 for dinner reservations.

The dinner is followed by a program at 7:00 PM. Special Guest Chautauquan Speaker, Betsy B. Smith of Cynthiana, Kentucky will portray one time Elizabethtown resident, Mrs. Emilie Todd Helm.

As the sister of Mary Todd Lincoln and the wife of Confederate General Benjamin Hardin Helm, Emilie had a front row view of history during and after the Civil War from the standing as a true southern loyalist and Kentuckian.

She weathered the ordeals of the war and reconstruction and landed in Elizabethtown, where three consecutive presidents appointed her postmistress. Helm attended many Confederate reunions, where she was hailed as the Mother of the Orphan Brigade.

Come and meet Emilie, one of the most adorable, beloved and uniquely controversial houseguest ever to make her presence known at the White House.



**Betsy Smith as Emilie Todd Helm**

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