

Suicide taints Helm family

The August 4, 1842 Louisville, Kentucky Journal broke the unexpected news of the death of the Honorable John L. Helm's sister with the following short notice:

We regret to learn that Miss Malvina Helm, an accomplished and highly respectable young lady of Hardin County, and a sister of the Hon. John L. Helm, committed suicide, by taking laudanum, on Saturday night. She left a long letter addressed to her brother. We have heard nothing as to its contents.

The Elizabethtown (KY) Register followed with a more lengthy explanation on August 26 about the sad event.

A Suicide—It becomes our painful duty to announce the sudden death of Miss Malvina Helm. She departed this life at the residence of Dr. H. Slaughter, in this place, between the hours of 12 o'clock, Saturday night, and 5 o'clock on Sunday morning last. On a table in the same room with the deceased, was found a wine glass with (from the marks upon the glass) what seemed the remains of a large draught of sulphate of morphine, and in a portfolio on the table, in the hand writing of the deceased, the following lines:

"If there are any on earth who hate me,

"I forgive them.

"If there are any whom I have injured,

"I atone it with my life.

"If there are any who love me,

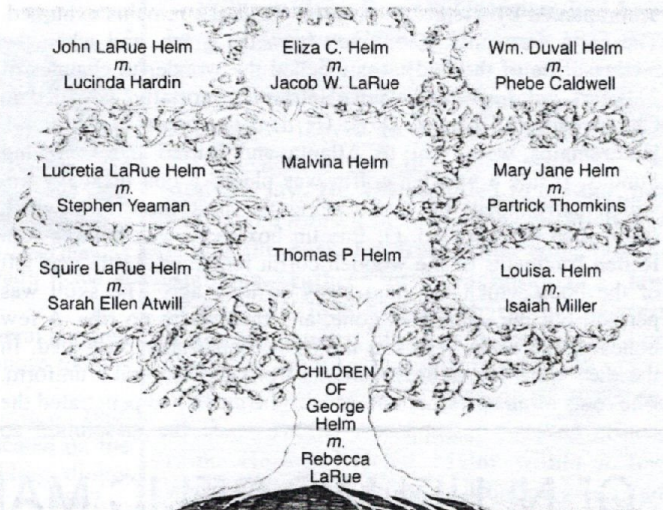
"I can only say farewell.

"Malvina.

"To one who will understand it:

"I told you that one remark of yours had embittered many of my hours; do not believe it; I meant but an idle jest. YOU NEVER WOUNDED, NEVER GRIEVED ME. Farewell.

"Malvina."



The family tree of George and Rebecca LaRue Helm. John LaRue Helm and Malvina Helm, brother and sister in this early newspaper article were brother and sister and had seven other siblings.

Miss Helm came to town the evening before her death, on a visit to Dr. Slaughter's family, and was scene by many of her friends. To those who conversed with her, she seemed in her usual good spirits. After her friends had withdrawn, she took from Mrs. Slaughter's room pen, ink and paper, and returned to the parlor. When the family retired for the night, she was admonished that it was late, and said that she too would retire after she had written a letter. The family supposed she had retired to her room; but in the morning, when they arose, they found her in the parlor, extended on a settee, rather on her right side, her cheek resting upon her right hand, her left arm thrown across her body, and in its hand a white handkerchief. Not a limb or muscle betrayed past pain; the fact wore an expression of such sweet serenity and calmness, that her friend were cheated into the hope that she only slept; but, alas! The soul had fled, and she slept the sleep of death. Every effort was made to resuscitate the lifeless course, but in vain.

Hardin County's First Family...

Honorable Name - A Beloved Son and Leader

A SOLDIER'S REMAINS EXHUMED.

THE BONES OF GEN. HELM REMOVED FROM
ATLANTA TO ELIZABETHTOWN, KY.

ATLANTA, Ga., Sept. 17. - John Helm, brother of the late Gen. Helm; his nephew, Helm Bruce, and Thomas G. Hayes, his brother-in-law, went to Oak Hill Cemetery this morning accompanied by friends to have the General's remains exhumed. The earth was quickly removed from the grave, and when the resting-place of the body was reached the wonderful changes of 21 years were revealed. Gen. Helm was mortally wounded at Chickamauga, Sept. 19, 1863. He died that night at Ringgold. His remains were sent to Atlanta and buried the following Sunday. Inside a wooden coffin was placed a box of heavy tin, which surrounded the body, being the best protection which could then be procured. Of this tin box there was nothing left. Rotten fragments of the wooden coffin remained. Little was left of the body which was laid away so long ago. The skull was perfect, but the spine was gone, and there were no ribs. A few bones of the arms, legs and thighs were partially preserved. In the dust were found brass buttons from the General's uniform. The roots of an oak which grew near the grave had penetrated the coffin, and this is supposed to have made the dissolution so

complete. The remains were taken up and the casket conveyed to the sexton's house.

At 1 o'clock the Gate City Guard and the Governor's Horse Guard formed a procession, and to solemn music proceeded to the soldier's remains. Services were held by the Rev. Dr. McDonald. At the conclusion of Dr. McDonald's remarks the casket was removed to the passenger station, and it was placed on the Western and Atlantic train and taken away under charge of Mr. Helm, Mr. Hayes, and Mr. Bruce. Their destination is Elizabethtown, Ky., where they will arrive tomorrow morning. It is the ancient home of Gen. Helm. The Legislature not long ago expressed its gratitude to the memory of John Helm, father of Gen. Helm, by decreeing him a monument which should cost \$20,000. It is to commemorate the service of one who was twice Governor of the State, first President of its greatest railroad, and prominent for many years in its political and industrial affairs. Friday the statue will be unveiled. The survivors of the First Kentucky Brigade, the General's old command, will have a reunion there and will receive the remains. After receiving military honor the remains will be interred permanently.

The New York Times
September 18, 1884

GEN. HELM'S RELIC MAKES THE NATIONAL NEWS

The New York Times
April 3, 1895

The New York Times
April 9, 1895

BITTER FIGHT OVER A POST OFFICE Emily Todd Helm Still in Control in Spite of Her Enemies.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., April 2. - There is a lively row at Elizabethtown over the Post Office. The Senate refused to confirm President Cleveland's appointment of Frank A. Joplin to the place, and Mrs. Emily Todd Helm, a sister-in-law of Abraham Lincoln, still holds the fort. Inspector Airington has just finished an investigation of her office, instigated by those who desire her removal. Among the charges are that the Government was made to pay for kerosene and anthracite coal not used at the Post Office but at Mrs. Helm's home, and the holding back of the pay of her assistant. There is a good deal of politics behind the whole affair, and ex-Congressman Montgomery is held to be at the bottom of it. Mrs. Helm was appointed by President Garfield, and has held office ever since. She is the widow of Gen. Ben Hardin Helm, the commander of the famous "orphan brigade" of Kentucky Confederate soldiers.

A POST OFFICE FIGHT ENDED Abraham Lincoln's Sister-in-Law Removed After Twelve Years Service.

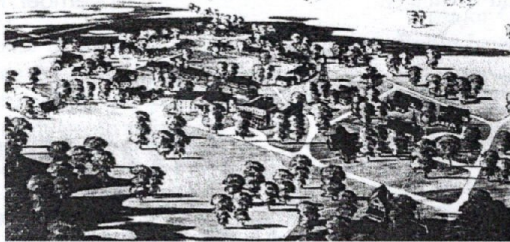
WASHINGTON, April 8. - The fight over the appointment of Postmaster at Elizabethtown, Ky., was settled today by the President appointing F.M. Joplin to succeed Mrs. Emily Todd Helm. The retiring Postmistress is a sister of Mrs. Abraham Lincoln and was appointed by President Arthur twelve years ago. Congressman Montgomery has been active in the fight, and before Congress adjourned succeeded in securing the appointment of Mr. Joplin, but the Senate refused to confirm the nomination. Since then efforts to remove Mrs. Helm have been made and charges of misappropriating fuel and other things intended for the use of the Post Office to the amount of \$100 have been made against her, and a Post Office Inspector named Arrington visited Elizabethtown and made an investigation. He reported to the department, but the officials having charge of the matter refused to divulge the contents of his report.



Lynnland College students in front of the Administration building.

Hinted Demise of Historic Site

In recent months several individuals have expressed a concern as to plans for the historic Kentucky Baptist Children's Home known to Hardin County residents as Glen Dale, Inc. The old administration building on that campus was sold to the Baptist Education Society on July 17, 1907 for a sum of \$8,000. It exchanged hands on June 23, 1915 to the trustees of the Kentucky Baptist Children's Home and several hundred acres were purchased and additional buildings were erected to compose today's campus that faces demolition.



Charles F. Gelladius, Architect, Cincinnati, Ohio drawing of the proposed Kentucky Baptist Children's Home at Glendale, KY.

The large two-story brick building at Glen Dale was constructed between 1866 and its opening in September 1867. The structure, conveniently located on the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, served as an administrative building, dining room and kitchen for Lynnland Female Institute chartered on February 11, 1867.

The first head of the school, Reverend G.A. Coulson, was succeeded by Brigadier General William Flank Perry of Alabama, a self educated man whose innovative leadership offered a curriculum of Latin, Greek, Higher mathematics, modern languages and several other subjects that elevated prestige of the school.

Perry furthered the advancement of the noble institution when he acquired the instructional skills of Mr. John Peyton Hobson with a letter of recommendation from General Robert E. Lee, president of Washington College in Virginia (now Washington and Lee University.) Hobson held a master's degree and had earned the highly coveted Washington College academic Robinson Medal of highest scholarship in Latin, Greek and mathematics.

General Perry and his new partner, Major Peter E. Harris purchased the school on June 29, 1871 for \$17,000. They later converted the school into the Lynnland Military Institution however the change was not the success they anticipated and the school closed in 1879.

In 1888, the school was sold for \$8,000. to E.W. Elrod and E.W. White who reopened as a girl's school called Lynnland College. It was a highly successful venture and young ladies attended from all over Kentucky and other states.

Reverend W.B. Gwynn purchased the school in 1895 and kept it open for twelve years as Lynnwood Academy, a co-educational school before selling it to the Baptist Educational Society of Kentucky in 1907.

August 1895 Elizabethtown News advertisement.



C.S.A. General W. F. Perry Courtesy of The Confederate Veteran X:36

William Flank Perry, a Georgian, had been born in Jackson County, 12 March 1823, and was a self-educated, but non-practicing attorney with an interest in public education. His family moved to Alabama in 1833, and Perry began to teach in country schools while studying law. He was admitted to the bar, but he devoted himself to improving education and laying the basis for free public education in Alabama, rather than establishing a law practice. In 1858 he took charge of the East Alabama Female College at Tuskegee where he remained until the war called him in 1862.

Perry enlisted as a private in the 44th Alabama infantry and began a rapid rise in rank. He was elected Major within a few weeks (May 1862), rose to Lt. Col. after 2nd Manassas (1 September 1862), and Col. after Sharpsburg (17 September 1862). He led his regiment at Gettysburg in the assault against Little Round Top, and he was cited for gallantry at Chickamauga. As a result of the feud between Generals Jenkins and Law, Perry was in actual charge of the brigade during the winter, 1863-1864. He led his regiment at The Wilderness, Spotsylvania, and the North Anna where General Law was wounded. Thereafter, Perry assumed command of the brigade and kept it until the surrender at Appomattox. However, he was not promoted to Brig. General until 21 February 1865.

Following the war, Perry farmed in Alabama for two years and then resumed his career as an educator. In 1869, he took the reins of Lynnland Female Institute in Glendale, KY where he later purchased the school in 1871 with a Major Peter Harris and reestablished it as the Lynnland Military Institution. Upon closing the school in 1879, Perry relocated to Bowling Green, KY where he became a professor of English and philosophy at Ogden College, which is now Western Kentucky University. He remained there until his death in December 1901.

Prominent Kentucky Physician in Litigation

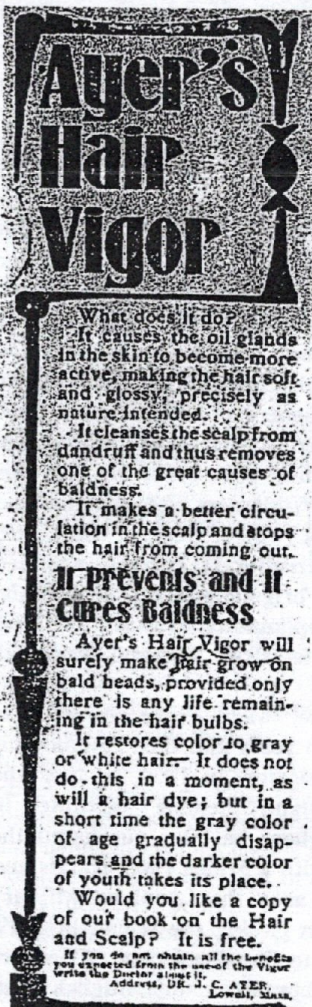
SEDUCTION CASE IN KENTUCKY Last week, says the Louisville Courier, there was tried in the Hardin Circuit Court, the case of Thomas Kelly vs. Dr. Thomas B. Greenly, for the seduction of Miss Malvina Kelly. This case excited a great degree of interest, from the fact that the damages were laid at \$5,000, and also from the allegation that the seduction was accomplished by administering drugs to Miss Kelly. When she entered the Court House, the Elizabethtown Register reports quite an affecting scene having occurred. Overcome by the novelty of her position, and the terrible trial she was about to undergo, she sank down, and in an audible voice offered up a fervent prayer to the Throne of Grace, to stand by her in that hour of trial and difficulty.

During the prayer, a perfect silence pervaded the house, and many an eye "unused to the melting mood," shed copious tears. She then told her tale of woe in a simple and unadorned manner. The administering of cantharides was abundantly proved, yet great contrariety of opinion existed as to whether it would produce the effect as charged. The trial continued from Tuesday until Saturday, when the jury returned a verdict of \$500 damages for the plaintiff. There is another case pending in court between Miss Kelly vs. Dr. Greenly--an action for slander.

- Reprinted from the Brooklyn Daily Eagle
November 10, 1853, page 2

Quackery In Early Hair Care Products

Cantharides used in hair care Thought to prevent baldness



**Ayer's
Hair
Vigor**

What does it do?
It causes the oil glands in the skin to become more active, making the hair soft and glossy, precisely as nature intended.

It cleanses the scalp from dandruff and thus removes one of the great causes of baldness.

It makes a better circulation in the scalp and stops the hair from coming out.

It prevents and it cures baldness

Ayer's Hair Vigor will surely make hair grow on bald heads, provided only there is any life remaining in the hair bulbs.

It restores color to gray or white hair. It does not do this in a moment, as will a hair dye; but in a short time the gray color of age gradually disappears and the darker color of youth takes its place.

Would you like a copy of our book on the Hair and Scalp? It is free.

If you do not obtain all the benefits you expect from the use of the Vigor write the Doctor about it.
Address, DR. J. C. AYER,
LOWELL, MASS.

The Victorians washed their hair far less often than we do today. Journals reveal some rather peculiar ways of cleaning the hair. These range from rubbing pea flour into the hair to herbal infusions. In 1864, Godey's published this recipe for cleaning the hair, "Hair Wash. Take a small quantity of rosemary, strip the leaves from the stalks, and put them into a jar with nearly half a pint of cold water. Place the jar near the fire, and let the contents simmer gently for an hour or two, without setting or burning. When the water is somewhat reduced the infusion will be sufficiently strong. Then add a half a pint of rum, and simmer the whole for a while longer. When cold, strain the liquid from the leaves, and keep it in a bottle to be ready for use. Apply it to the roots of the hair with a small sponge or piece of flannel."

Ironically along with such recipes to clean the hair can be found items to restore the hair. In 1852 Godey's published this method of restoring the hair, "Pomade to prevent baldness is made thus. Beef suet one ounce, **tincture of cantharides** one teaspoonful, oil of origanum (margerum) and bergamot of each 10 drops. Melt the suet and when nearly cold stir in the rest of the ingredients until set."

Before Godey's hair restorative, the famous Barry's Tricopherous was first made available by "professor" Alexander C. Barry. Barry actually started out as a wig maker in New York and as far is known never actually received a degree or the official title of professor. The ingredients of Barry's Tricopherous were: 97% alcohol, 1.5% castor oil, and 1% **tincture of cantharides** (Spanish fly).

James C. Ayer is one of those rare snake oil sellers who actually had a legitimate apprenticeship. Ayer studied pharmacy and chemistry in a drug store in Ledyard, Conn. as well as following the Harvard College Curriculum. He also studied medicine with a Dr Samuel Dana in Lowell, Mass. Although Ayer did not attend college as such, he was eventually awarded a degree by the University of Pennsylvania in medicine.

Ayer bought out the drug store in which he trained and started producing his own remedies of which one was Ayer's hair vigor. First sold in 1865 the product continued to sell until the early 1930s. Many Ayer's ads ran in The Elizabethtown News.

The composition of Ayer's Hair Vigor was based on cream of tartar, glycerine, lead acetate, caustic soda, and water. The specific formula changed quite frequently throughout the life of the product.

Ayer also used trade cards as a popular form of advertising. On the back of the card the text would promote the product. On a typical trade card the text says "Ayer's Hair Vigor is a most scientific, popular, and elegant hairdressing, and is made from the choicest materials afforded by the markets of the world. It prevents the hair from becoming thin, faded, gray, or wiry; and preserves its richness, luxuriance, and color to an advanced period of life. It keeps the scalp cool, moist, and healthy, cures itching humors, and thoroughly removes dandruff. It tones up the weak hair roots, stimulates the vessels and tissues which supply the hair with nutrition, strengthens the hair itself, and adds the oils which keeps the shafts soft, lustrous, and silky. No other toilet preparation is so widely and favorably known as Ayer's Hair Vigor." This was then often followed by the text of a personal testimonial.



An Ayer's Hair Vigor ad in The Elizabethtown News.

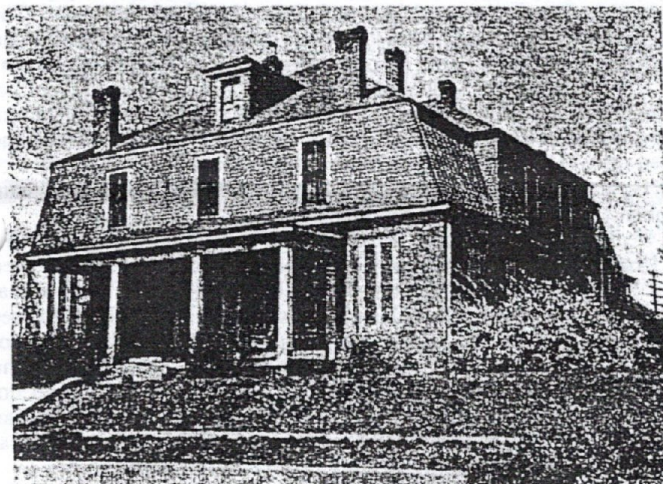
The Real Treasure of Hardin County

A copy of an old photo was left at The Hardin County History Museum with an interesting tale. The photo of two well dressed ladies was reputed to have been taken in Elizabethtown. Behind the ladies was what appeared to be elaborate paintings and an arched frame. Where could such a house have been in the town around the 1850's when photography was in its early stages?

Just ask Mary Jo Jones. If anyone would have an idea as to the house in question and its location it would be her. She is the real treasure of Hardin County knowledge not to forget to add that her house contains a treasure of antiques - books, photos, newspaper clippings collected first by her mother, Margaret Settle Richerson, and then by Mary Jo.

Not only did we find the house in question, and no it isn't the Helm Place that did have wonderful wall murals during the time period in question, we also got a newspaper clipping from Mary Jo and a photo of the inside of the home to satisfy our search.

Hardin County Enterprise
April 18, 1960



(ABOVE) This house atop the hill at 220 North Main Street was built in 1820. A cannonball fired by Gen. John Hunt Morgan's men struck the shutter frame on the porch, went through the false window and pierced the concave wall where a picture was being painted.

Elizabethtown Landmark To Be Auctioned Old House Contains Treasure of Antiques

An old house and its contents, remnants from another time in history, will be auctioned off soon.

The house, which has fallen into decay, will probably be torn down, and the contents, including many valuable antiques will likely be distributed among a number of people at the sale. And when all is down, another Elizabethtown landmark will have vanished.

The old house contains 16 huge rooms and is located atop the hill at 220 North Main Street. The solid-brick outside walls on the first floor are 18 inches thick. There will probably be enough bricks to finish two or three modern homes.

The house and the lot have a history much of which, certainly, was not uncovered for this brief story.

Was Church Site

The first building to house Severns Valley Baptist Church was

constructed on the site in 1799. The church was established in 1781, and the first house of worship, a sturdy log structure, was built here 18 years later. It served as the church until 1805.

According to Samuel Haycraft's "History of Elizabethtown," written in 1869, John Davidson bought the site after the church was moved. He sold the ground to major James Crutcher who contracted with James West to build the present house, which was completed in 1820. Haycraft describes West as an excellent builder and "a splendid workman."

The stately mansion stood alone on the hill, with the front facing toward Public Square.

Major Crutcher, according to Haycraft, sold the house to I. Robin Jacob who made it his home for some time. But the date of the sale was not told.

Hit by Cannonball

During the Civil War, a cannonball fired by General John Hunt Morgan's men struck the shutter frame on the side of the house next to North Main, going through the wall by the false window and piercing the inside concave wall where a picture was being painted. The hole is still visible as well as the patch on the inside.

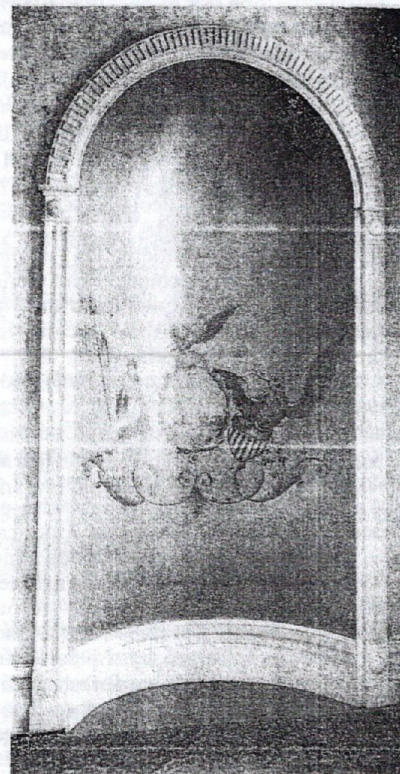
In later years the property changed hands a number of times. John Stewart, father of Mrs. A.P. Latham and Miss Margaret Stewart of Elizabethtown, was the owner when the second floor burned out in 1905. The house was restored. The original first floor wall was saved, and the second story was finished in shingles.

Was Boarding House

Later, Mrs. Betty Martin purchased the house. Her daughter, Miss Maggie Martin, operated a boarding house there for years. Miss Martin is now dead.

The house, the contents and the 150 x 210 feet lot are not part of the estate of Miss Martin's sister, Mrs. Lawrence (Mary) Richardson. She and her husband resided there for some time but moved in December. The house has been vacant since then. First Hardin Company is the selling agent.

NOTE: A plaque was placed on the house in 1935 by the Hardin County Historical Society. That plaque stated that the first building to house Severns Valley Baptist Church was erected on this site. In Chapter XIX of Haycraft's History of Elizabethtown mention is made of this hill northeast of the Court House, the hewed poplar log church and Major James Crutcher later building this home.



Prelude to 1900 Election

By Susan McCrobie, Hardin County History Museum Promotions Chair

On July 14, 1898, John William Keith of Falls of Rough, KY penned a letter back home to Custer, KY to his mother, Rebeckey. Over the years members of the Keith family have handed this letter around as a part of family history. My grandmother, Loretta Josephine Keith Evans, was especially fond of the contents of the missive, it told about her daddy, Shelly Grey Keith, wanting to go to school.

In the letter Shelly had another desire, to go out to Manley Bay to join Dewey. According to the letter, John William Keith was pretty wrapped up in the newspaper coverage of the war and wanted to help in the struggle.

The Spanish-American War of 1898 marked a turning point in American history. Shortly after the end of the war the United States became a world power, exercising controlling influence over islands in the Caribbean Sea, the mid-Pacific Ocean and close to the Asian mainland.

This war has sometimes been called "The Newspaper War," largely because the influence of a sensationalist press that many thought led to the fighting. Central to a sense of rage spread by the media were the events of February 1898, which culminated with the destruction of an American battleship, the USS *Maine*, in the Havana, Cuba harbor. The media played upon the events until a war began, prompting a debate whether the press merely reflected the public's desire for war or enflamed it.

The extraordinary U.S. reaction to the sinking of the *Maine* forced President McKinley to declare war. Ironically, McKinley acted only after being informed that the Senate was going to save the nation's honor by declaring War. If there ever was a "popular war," one forced upon a reluctant leadership by the people, it was this one.

When McKinley declared war, Kentuckians like Keith wanted to help Cuba in their struggle for freedom from the Spanish while regaining national honor of murdered USS *Maine* servicemen.

Elsewhere in the country, Theodore Roosevelt was unable to contain his enthusiasm and resigned from the Navy Department to fight in Cuba as lieutenant colonel of the "Rough Riders," a volunteer Calvary regiment that he recruited himself.

The war with Spain was swift and decisive. During the four months it lasted, not a single American reverse of any importance occurred. A week after the declaration of war, Commodore George Dewey, then at Hong Kong, proceeded with his squadron of six vessels to the Philippines. His orders were to prevent the Spanish fleet based there from operating in American waters. He caught the entire Spanish fleet at anchor and destroyed it without losing an American life.

Meanwhile, in Cuba, troops landed near Santiago, where -- after winning a rapid series of engagements -- they fired on the port. Four armored Spanish cruisers steamed out of Santiago Bay and a few hours later were reduced to ruined hulks. Santiago had fallen.

War was followed by a presidential election. William McKinley was leaving the campaigning for re-election to his Republican running mate, that noisy, war hero, Theodore Roosevelt against the Populist William Jennings Bryan. The candidates argued mainly about whether America had been right to annex the Philippines after the Spanish-American war, a war incited by the reckless journalism of the press and enthusiastically embraced by Americans like Keith and his little boy, Shellie.

well I am sure you are taking a paper and getting the news of your army and you should be having & doing some great fighting a round Santiago every day I say Hurrah for the American Army & Navy and I have got the news & will go and help in the Great Struggle for Cuba

An excerpt from J.W. Keith's July 14, 1898 letter to his mother.

Brooklyn Daily Eagle
October 14, 1900

DISORDER AT ELIZABETHTOWN

Whistles Blown, Mob Yells for Bryan and Empty Coal Wagons Are Driven Through the Crowd.

Louisville, October 13 - Louisville tonight gave Governor Roosevelt an enthusiastic reception, the programme concluding with the crowded meeting at the Auditorium. This was in marked contradistinction to the greeting offered at Elizabethtown, the last stop before the special reached this city. At that place the Governor suffered the first indignity thrust upon him in the state. Bowling Green had cheered the Governor until his ears rang with the plaudits, and Munfordville gathered at the train, where the speaker's stand was erected, receiving him with expressions of good will.

But at Elizabethtown it was different, although the Republicans had done all in their power to make the candidate's stop there a pleasant one. No sooner had the Governor mounted the platform with General Buckner and other members of his party than an attempt was made to break up the meeting. Small boys carried Bryan banners in the outskirts of the crowd and empty coal wagons were driven at full speed through the square. The steam whistle on a mill close by was blown loudly and half a hundred men or more shouted "Hurrah for Bryan" when the Governor began speaking. Despite the fact that he had a soreness of his throat which had compelled him to shorten all his earlier speeches during the day, the Governor proceeded to make himself heard in spite of the noise in the crowd. Above the shriek of the steam whistle rang the words:

"I call your attention to the attitude of Mr. Bryan friends on the subject of law and order." Then he waved his hand to the crowd and continued: "It is natural that the men who have tried to deprive Kentucky of a free ballot should be opposed to free speech. It is not extraordinary that the men who have stolen the governorship and who seek to steal it again should not seek to gag an American citizen even before he had uttered one word of his opinions in a political controversy."

This brought cheers and more interruptions, and the Governor was urged not to further endanger his throat but to permit a substitute to finish the programme. He rejected the suggestion, however, and spoke the full fifteen minutes allotted to him and was escorted to his train by a large crowd.

"Just a put up job to break up the meeting," was Governor Roosevelt's comment when he returned to his car, "but I guess I got back at them."

Chairman Barnett and Secretary Coombs of the state central committee telegraphed news of the trouble to this city and urged local Republican organizations to redouble their efforts in showing Governor Roosevelt that Kentuckians are not lacking in courtesy and hospitality. When the train reached Louisville it was stormed by an admiring, curious, surging mob, which followed the party to the Gault House, where the Governor was dined as the guest of the state executive committee. At 8 o'clock the Governor was escorted to the Auditorium.

Including the speech tonight, Governor Roosevelt has addressed nine audiences in Kentucky since 9 o'clock, when he spoke at Henderson. Tomorrow he will reset quietly, reaching Lexington at 6 A.M. Monday.

The Brooklyn Daily Eagle and The New York Times both were eager to report to their readers about the politics in Kentucky during 1900. On Saturday, February 3, and after a spirited election against the Republican Incumbent Governor, the Democratic Gubernatorial candidate William Goebel was assassinated in Frankfort. Goebel had won the hard fought election for what good it did him and his followers.

In Hardin County the Democrats looked to unseat the Republican Incumbent President, William McKinley in the November election. McKinley's running mate, Governor Roosevelt met up with Bryan supporters during his visit in town. While the New York papers printed a story that called Elizabethtown area residents a mob, and the local paper reported a great disappointment in Roosevelt's character they both captured the essence of politics in Kentucky-spirited, unpredictable and having two opposing views that is bound to attract supporters and attention before the winner is declared.

The Elizabethtown News
October 19, 1900

TEDDY IN TOWN.

The Governor of New York Loses His Head and Makes a Spectacle of Himself.

The Impression Created Anything But A Favorable One.

The fact that Teddy Roosevelt, the Republican candidate for Vice President was to speak in Elizabethtown was an event much talked about and a great deal of interest was manifested. The Republicans predicted that they would have a record-breaking crowd and some of them went so far as to say it would surpass the crowd which greeted Bryan here in 1897. The crowd which numbered less than a thousand Republicans was a great disappointment to the management but it was not half the disappointment that the redoubtable Teddy was himself. As he rode from the depot in a carriage with Gen. Buckner and John L. Helm, the latter introducing him, he was greeted with a number of lusty cheers for Bryan and a couple of boys preceded the carriage with pictures of Bryan on sticks. The Governor got mad at once. His appearance is anything but prepossessing. He looks like a foreigner and he shows his teeth in his anger like a hyena. When he started to speak some over-enthusiastic Democrats shouted again for Bryan. We regret exceedingly that they did this, as it was not treating a stranger of such prominence with proper respect. But the crowd was good-natured and the cheers for Bryan were not intended to prevent the speaker from talking but came from the exuberance of Democratic fever. Teddy did not take it that way and he hissed between his teeth "Yes, yell for Bryan, Aguinaldo or any other Chinese half-breed." This made the Democrats mad. They did not like to have Bryan insulted. They remembered that he never insulted anybody and they yelled back, "Hurrah for Bryan!"

Roosevelt grew livid. He clamped his teeth until those in the street could almost hear them grit. He shot out his doubled right fist and struck the air viciously two or three times, unable apparently to utter a word. When he finally opened his tightened jaw he yelled, "You are the men who interfere with free speech because you are afraid to listen to argument. You are the men whose actions Bryan comes to Kentucky to endorse. His arguments are only wind. They only excite foolish and ignorant people to try to break up meetings. Cowards stand on the out skirts of crowds and try to interfere with free speech. Brave men fight for their rights."

He spoke for the full length of time allotted to Elizabethtown and every word was heard by the crowd. His effort was a dismal failure and unworthy of a third class politician. It was real disappointing to even the Democrats who thought he was more of a man. If there are any elements of greatness about him he failed to display them here and only showed littleness, which was both contemptible and ludicrous at the same time. If his puerile effort had any effect at all it strengthened the Democrats as the contrast between him and Bryan was so marked.



In the general and overwhelming defeat of the Democratic party it is really refreshing to know that Hardin county stood like a stone wall and really did better than was expected by the State Committee. The county again takes its place as the banner Democratic county of the district. It has recorded the largest majority for twenty years in a Presidential election. In 1896 the county polled 4,800 votes which exceeded the vote of any former year by six hundred. We thought then that we had reached high water mark, but on Tuesday we went that 300 votes better. The complete returns of every precinct give Bryan 3,058, McKinley 2,013 Bryan's majority 1,045. For Beckham 3,004, for Yerkes 2,092; Beckham's majority 912; Smith's majority 979. The following is the vote of the county by precincts:

FOR PRESIDENT.		
Precincts.	Bryan	McK
Elizabethtown North.....	213	102
Elizabethtown South.....	166	119
Elizabethtown East.....	202	165
Elizabethtown West.....	205	107
Upton	95	60
Sonora	190	145
Glendale.....	140	97
Colesburg.....	131	66
East View	122	211
Long Grove.....	153	87
Bethlehem.....	129	82
Vine Grove.....	239	130
Stibton	154	58
West Point.....	140	137
Atchera.....	162	113
Yates' Store.....	147	47
Vertrees.....	191	52
Meeting Creek	153	206
Melrose.....	123	61
Total.....	3058	2043

Results reported by precinct for Hardin County, KY in the 1900 Presidential election as published in The Elizabethtown News.

Elizabethtown Native and Survivor of Custer's Last Stand Gives Recount of the Historic Event

The following story appeared in the June 3, 1941 edition of *The Press Gazette*. The paper is located in Hillsboro, Ohio.

Survivor of Custer's "Last Stand" In Resident Here

John S. Ragsdale, one of the four survivors of Custer's Massacre, who lives in Hillsboro, is a 91-years-old and spry as most men at 40. Never before has John made a statement or talked about the famous last stand of General Geo. Custer.

"I always kept it to myself, as most people wouldn't believe such thing every happened," John said "but all they would have to do is check on any statements I might have made in Washington and they would soon learn I spoke the truth."

Upon being questioned about the famed battle, John related every detail from the day the 7th Cavalry of the U. S. Army left Powder River, Montana, until help arrived and the battle was over.

He related how the land sloped, the names of the three Indian scouts, "Moose, Bloody Knife and Yellow Face," who guided the regiment. How they ran short of ammunition after nearly two days fighting and sharpened their bowie knife on the gun barrels and met the Indians, who out-numbered them at least 30 to 1, face to face, how the Indians turned and fled in fright when they saw a member of their tribe slashed to ribbons. All of the details were included in John S. Ragsdale's description of the last stand.

John owns a picture of Gen. Custer and his wife. He praised his former commander very highly, and added "Custer wouldn't ask his men to go and do anything that he wouldn't do himself." He told how Mrs. Custer was admired by every man in the regiment, and that they came to call her the "mother of the regiment."

The former Indian fighter stands six feet two inches tall, weights 158 pounds. At the time of the massacre he topped the scales around 180. He has numerous red curls thickly matted on his head, with here and there faint traces of gray showing through. He is very active and spends considerable time walking and enjoying the warm sunshine. Unlike most army men, John doesn't smoke.

Today John is a widower, his wife having died fifteen years ago. He has one son, now working in Dayton, Ohio. He has resided in Hillsboro since last August, making his home here with William Raines, 341 E. Walnut Street. Previous to this he lived in Dayton. He was born in Elizabethtown, Ky., December 9, 1849, became a member of the famed Custer regiment at the age of 22 and was 26 years old when the mostly deadly of all Indian battles was fought.

Note: According "Friends of Little Big Horn" and 7th Cavalry roster, John Samuel Ragsdale was born Dec. 25, 1850 in Elizabethtown, KY and Died Dec. 4, 1942 in Dayton, Ohio. The reason he survived the Battle of Little Big Horn was that he was on detached service. He was Company A, with the rank of Private, enlistment date: June 20, 1872.

Page From Custer's Monthly Military Returns of the U.S. Army Post at Elizabethtown, Kentucky

The image shows a page from a military return document. It features a large table with multiple columns, likely representing different categories of personnel or their status. The text is mostly illegible due to fading, but some handwritten notes and signatures are visible. At the top, there are some printed headers and instructions. The overall appearance is that of an old, official document.

Additional information about Regular Army enlisted men and officers may be found in post and unit returns. National Archives Microfilm Publication M617, *Returns from U.S. Military Posts, 1800-1916*, contains returns for many military posts, camps, and stations. Returns generally show units stationed at the post and their strength, the names and duties of officers, the number of officers present and absent, and a record of events. These returns indicate that in 1871, Lieutenant Colonel George Armstrong Custer faced a court-martial for failing to follow orders and for being absent from duty without permission. Custer was found guilty of the various charges and sentenced to a year without pay and a demotion in rank. It was also during 1871 that the Seventh Cavalry was divided into two separate detachments with Custer's men spending the next two years in Elizabethtown, Kentucky suppressing the Ku Klux Klan and carpetbaggers. In 1873, Custer and the Seventh Cavalry departed Kentucky to the Dakotas to protect workers on the Northern Pacific Railroad.

-Image Courtesy of U.S. National Archives

Elizabethtown Eagle Scouts Hold The Record

By Susan McCrobie, Hardin County History Museum Promotions Chair

In 1957, twenty-six young men from Elizabethtown, Kentucky made history. These promising individuals were all Boy Scouts and met at the Old Memorial Recreation Building on South Mulberry with the Post 130 Scout Advisor Arthur Hugh "Red" Gregory, Jr. under the command of Mr. H. M. McCloy. They were industrious and were awarded the Eagle Scout badge, creating what is still the biggest court of honor, or Eagle Scout Induction, ever to come from one troop in United States history.

Bob Jenkins of Elizabethtown recalls the time leading up to becoming an Eagle Scout with great pride and enjoyment. Jenkins was just barely a teen at the time of the induction, an event he remembers well. "It was a pretty big do," said Jenkins.

He recalls being presented with a scarf or sheaf, and the Eagle Scout necklace he bestowed upon his mother at the ceremony. And then let's not to forget to mention the all important photo of the historic Eagle Scout Class of 1957, a replica that is hung at the local history museum.

Fellow Eagle Scout, Morris "Mo" Miller of Elizabethtown, said it was exciting times and Red Gregory was an exemplary leader always challenging the boys in the many hours spent together and putting up with dumb questions along the way.

Miller recalls a big trip in 1956 before completing the series of merit badges and ultimate Eagle Scout project. "We attended the Boy Scouts of America National Jamboree at the Valley Forge Park in Philadelphia, PA," said Miller "participating in the training programs and looking at all the exhibits."

Back in Elizabethtown the scouts earned the required 21 merit badges in areas ranging from first aid and personal fitness to communications to become an Eagle Scout. In addition, they were required to demonstrate leadership skills by holding positions of responsibility in the troop. And each boy completed the Eagle Scout project, a community-oriented

undertaking that requires at least 100 hours of work.

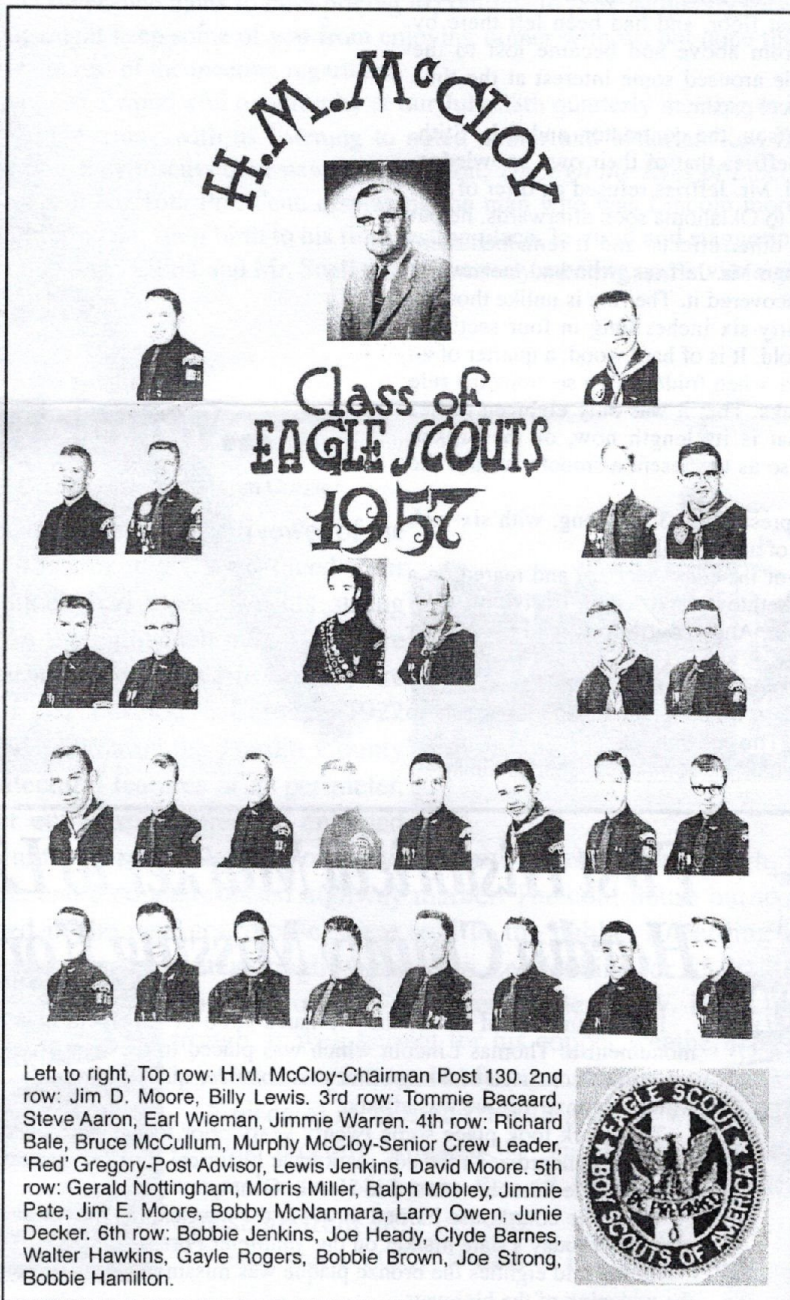
Post 130 blazed a trail, the Mammoth Cave Trail from Elizabethtown to Mammoth Cave to achieve their National Accreditation. "It was a 3 day hike that we made a number of times before we ask others to take it in order to meet requirements for the project," shared Jenkins.

Jenkins even remembers a ferry that crossed the Green River along the route. "Once we were late getting to the spot and had to camp overnight on the north side of the river." Jenkins believes that unscheduled layover occurred only once.

Not only did the scouts camp out overnight, they used their compasses to keep track of their location across the fields, recorded readings to create a map and worked on signage for those to follow in their tracks later.

Their leader, Red Gregory, worked at Fort Knox in the Main Post Office and kept up with the boys as easily as he worked the government's mail. His daughter, Jane Burnett of Elizabethtown, says her father had a natural love for others and scouting. Red and his brother had both been scouts, his father a scout leader and the minister of the Lucinda B. Helm Methodist Church. These men kept a close relationship with all children of the Lord and the master's great creation called nature. They spent each moment with these treasures wisely according to Burnett and the scouts.

Over fifty years has passed since these young men became Eagle Scouts. Their achievements carried a special significance not only in Scouting but as they entered higher education, business and community service. Trained to handle what life offered, they had excelled in performance based achievements. The goals of Scouting- *citizenship training, character development, and personal fitness* were important building blocks for these successful adults, some of the finest Elizabethtown has ever produced.



Left to right, Top row: H.M. McCloy-Chairman Post 130. 2nd row: Jim D. Moore, Billy Lewis. 3rd row: Tommie Bacaard, Steve Aaron, Earl Wieman, Jimmie Warren. 4th row: Richard Bale, Bruce McCullum, Murphy McCloy-Senior Crew Leader, 'Red' Gregory-Post Advisor, Lewis Jenkins, David Moore. 5th row: Gerald Nottingham, Morris Miller, Ralph Mobley, Jimmie Pate, Jim E. Moore, Bobby McNanmara, Larry Owen, Junie Decker. 6th row: Bobbie Jenkins, Joe Heady, Clyde Barnes, Walter Hawkins, Gayle Rogers, Bobbie Brown, Joe Strong, Bobbie Hamilton.

INTERESTING RELIC OF LINCOLN

Carpenter's Rule Bearing His Name Recovered From Old Building Dismantled At Elizabethtown

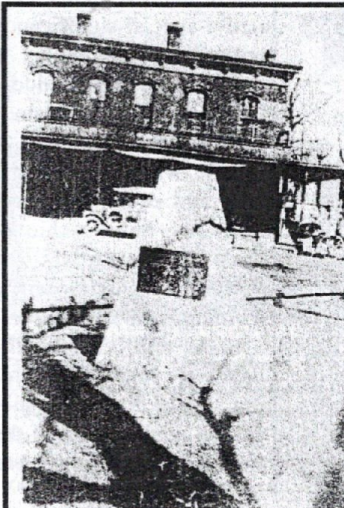
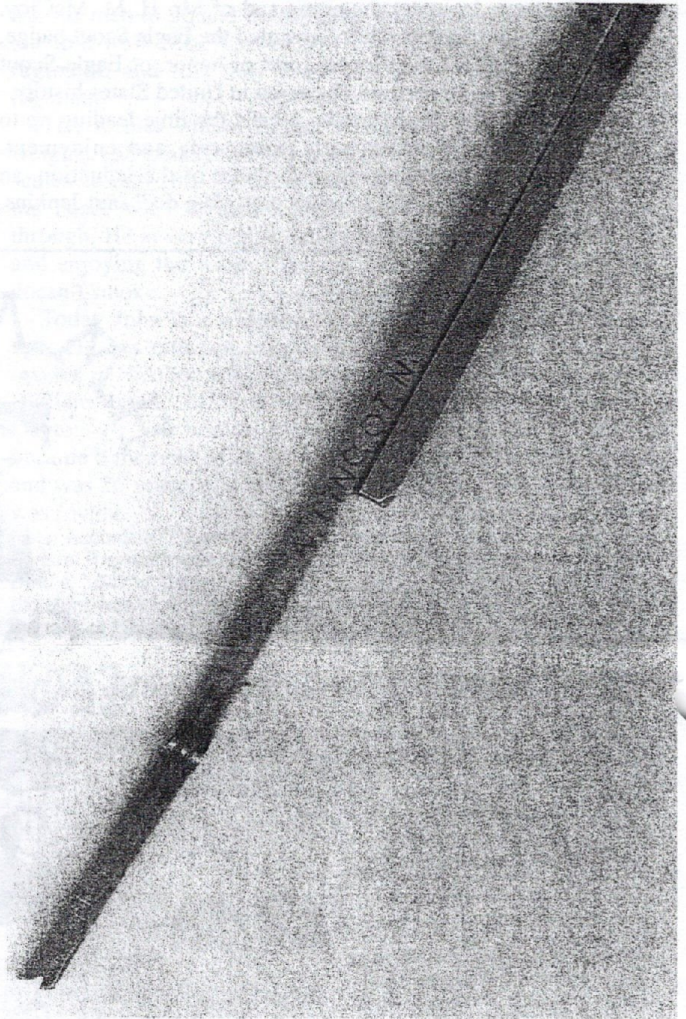
David Newton Jeffries, formerly of Hardin County, now of the Postal Telegraph line forces with headquarters in this city, is the possessor of an interesting and doubtless valuable relic of Abe Lincoln. It is a carpenter's rule with the name "A. Lincoln," cut into the wood. Mr. Jeffries, who formerly followed the trade of carpenter, found the rule about two years ago while at work for J.T. Morrison in the dismantling of the old Strange Hotel on Main Street, Elizabethtown. The building was a two-story frame structure of seven rooms. The rule was found in the casing above a window of the first floor, and had been left there by oversight or had fallen from above and became lost to the owner. The finding of the rule aroused some interest at the time and was published in the local paper.

The father of Mr. Morrison, the contractor, and R.L. Stith, both now dead, told Mr. Jeffries that of their own knowledge, Abe Lincoln built the hotel. Mr. Jeffries refused an offer of five dollars for the relic. Going to Oklahoma soon afterwards, he put the rule in his trunk with other effects, and it remained there forgotten until recently when Mr. Jeffries, who had meanwhile returned to Kentucky, rediscovered it. The rule is unlike those in use today having been thirty-six inches long in four sections, with a nine-inch break or fold. It is of hard wood, a quarter of an inch thick, making a square when folded. Two sections of the rule have been reduced by breaks. That it was only eighteen inches long when found, and that is its length now, of the broken sections had been framed so as to present a smooth surface the other is ragged.

Carpenter rules of the present are 3 feet long, with six-inch breaks, and only an eighth of an inch thick.

Mr. Jeffries, the finder of the rule was born and reared on a farm miles south of Elizabethtown and within twelve miles of the Lincoln farm. His father, Anderson Jeffries, and his mother still occupy the home.

Editor's Note: This story originally ran in one of the Louisville, KY newspapers however no date was kept intact with the article to trace the exact origin. The newspaper clipping and the carpenter's rule have been handed down in the Jeffries family.



First Historical Marker to Lincolns in Hardin County Missing For Decades

In the summer of 1922, the Woman's Club of Elizabethtown supervised the erection of a monument to Thomas Lincoln which was placed in the west front of the courthouse yard. The monument consisted of a large limestone boulder quarried from the Lincoln's Mill Creek farm on which a bronze plaque was affixed.

This work took place some twenty years prior to the state historical marker program which provides standardized roadside markers at historical spots of interest, making it the first historical marker to the Lincolns erected in Hardin County.

When the courthouse burned in 1932, the marker was moved south of town on U.S. 62 in the vicinity of today's state marker on the VanMeter Fort.

By the mid eighties the bronze plaque was missing and the limestone base was removed during the widening of the highway.



Message From The President

When you have got an elephant by the hind leg, and he is trying to run away, it's best to let him run.

-Abraham Lincoln

This week, a bit of business before pleasure. Some of our outstanding members appear to be slightly outstanding in payment of dues. It is our hope that through the wonderful Bits & Pieces newsletter, quarterly speakers and other events we are able to all enjoy celebrating the very rich history of this Hardin County we all share; payment of dues assists us in continuing in these grand endeavors. And while I have been so bold as to raise the issue of finance, I also need follow-up on an issue I brought before you last meeting. Beginning this evening, our new dinner price for meetings will be \$8.50, an increase of \$1.00. I would assume that most of you can understand, given today's financial difficulties, the need for Back Home and all other merchants to raise pricing to continue to provide quality service and, in our case, great food! I appreciate that this might keep some of you from enjoying dinner with us, but hope this will not be the case and encourage you to come for the rest of the meeting regardless.

Now, the pleasure! You have a wonderful opportunity at our July 28th quarterly meeting to indulge your auditory and visual senses by spending an evening with us listening to noted author and historian Ron Elliott and award-winning photographer John W. Snell as they discuss their new collaboration, *Through the Eyes of Lincoln*. Mr. Elliott will share with us little known facts about our 16th President, displaying the man who was Lincoln more than the icon. And Mr. Snell captures the journey of Lincoln, from birth to his final resting place, in vivid and staggering pictures.

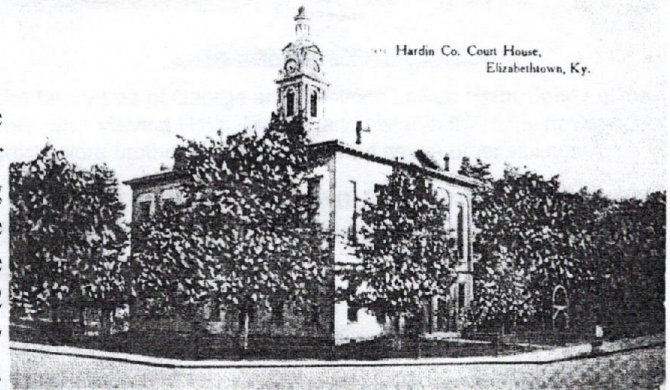
Please join me in welcoming Mr. Elliott and Mr. Snell to our quarterly meeting and invite a guest to join you!

- Jeff Lanz

Then and Now...

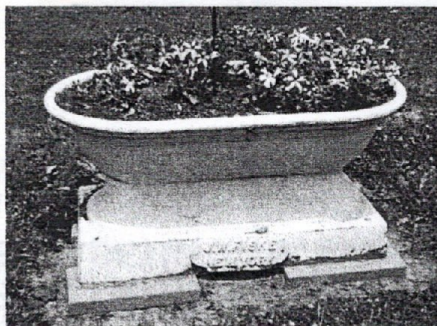
By Meranda Caswell, Hardin County History Museum Curator

In 1907 the County installed into the bell tower of the courthouse a clock with four dials that faced four different streets. This clock had electric lights strung behind the faced to make the eight-inch numerals more prominent. A wrought iron fence and a fire hydrant are part of the perimeter of the courthouse. Between 1922 and 1932, postcards and photos of the Hardin County Courthouse reveal architectural features of its perimeter. The North Main Street entrance featured an enlarged



Hardin Co. Court House,
Elizabethtown, Ky.

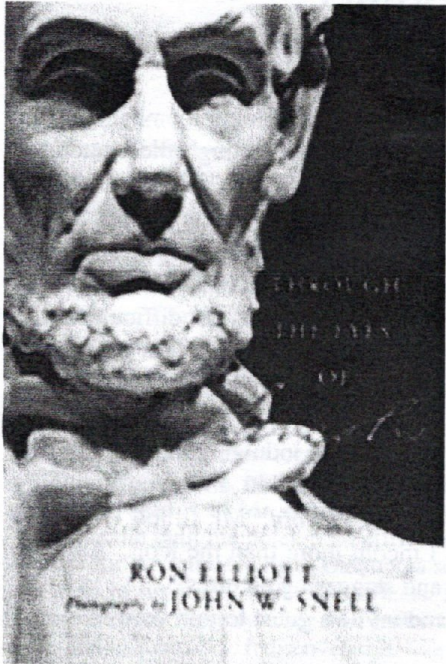
balcony with a four columns porch, a flagpole over the balcony, an iron water trough, limestone monument, a fire hydrant, stone fence, and a concrete-based highway marker. The courthouse burned on December 5, 1932. Salvaged items, not used in the new courthouse, were sold to the public. According to oral history, the iron water trough was sold to Les Jenkins for \$5.00. The trough still exists in Elizabethtown as a flower planter. J. W. Fiske, the manufacturer of the trough, is well known for his copper weathervanes, zinc life-size dog and horse statues, iron stable fixtures, and iron manhole covers.



A piece of melted metal with a screw was salvaged from the wreckage. It was recently donated to the Hardin County History Museum in remembrance of Agnes Stovall Munier, a mid-wife and herb doctor of Colesburg from 1877 to 1956.

Please share YOUR stories of Hardin County.

Historical Society announces next meeting



Newest Lincoln Book

The Hardin County Historical Society will meet Monday evening, July 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 \$8.50 per person. Call Regina Lancaster at 765-6700 for dinner reservations.

The dinner is followed by a program, *Through the Eyes of Lincoln-A Modern Photographic Journey*, at 7:00 PM. Special Guest Speakers, historian and author Ron Elliott and award-winning photographer John Snell present a breathtaking, cross-country journey of the sites and scenery from Abraham Lincoln's rustic birthplace and early homes in Kentucky and Indiana to his military, professional, and political careers in Illinois to Washington, DC and back to his final resting place in Springfield during this special presentation.

Elliott's wit and astute observations on each site's role and significance make the perfect, concise companion to Snell's extraordinary ability to capture on film what we all wish we could see. Scores of historic photos displayed in contrast to today's views coupled with maps, travel directions and recommendations will compel many to hit the road and experience it for themselves as they are literally "Retracing the Steps of Lincoln" in this exciting new Acclaim Press publication.

Books will be available for purchase. Elliott and Snell will be there to sign books and answer questions on their unique experience.

270.765.2171

Meranda Caswell, Treasurer

Regrettably this is your last issue of Bits and Pieces. We have not received your dues for 2008. Dues are 10\$ per person. If you wish to continue receiving Bits and Pieces and maintain your membership in HCHS please pay your dues by October 1st 2008. We sincerely hope you choose to stay with us.



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