

# *Bits and Pieces of Hardin County History*

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Robert Beimdick, Editor

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AS A CHILD ABRAHAM LINCOLN  
NEVER SAT ON A NAIL-KEG IN THE HELM & GREEN  
GENERAL STORE AND ATE MAPLE SUGAR

By R. Gerald McMurtry

Collin's HISTORY OF KENTUCKY, copyrighted in 1874, is a primary source for a study of the state's history, however, in a work so voluminous, based upon the writings and reminiscences of so many contributors, there are unfortunately errors. Such misinformation is to be found in the first paragraph of page 319 under "Hardin County", in Volume II of the 1924 edition of the Collin's work.

The paragraph follows

When Abraham Lincoln was a boy eight or ten years of age, his stepmother, Mrs. Sallie Bush Lincoln, brought him with her, when shopping, at the store of Helm & Green, in Elizabethtown, where she had contracted to "take out" part of the purchase money for her interest in her father's farm, bought by Maj. Ben. Helm. John B. Helm, a nephew and clerk of Maj. Helm, showed little Abe some kindnesses which he appreciated. In 1860, Mr. Helm, then a judge, residing in Hannibal, Missouri, was called upon by Mr. Lincoln, who was then a candidate for the presidency and returning from a business trip to Kansas. After some inquiries for identification--for 40 years had wrought change in both--Lincoln thus introduced Judge Helm to his traveling companions: "Gentlemen, here is the first man I ever knew who wore store clothes all the week; he is the same man who fed me on maple sugar, when a small boy, as I sat upon a nail keg in his uncle's store;" and then minutely related the whole circumstance. Lincoln had a remarkably retentive memory, and never forgot a kindness. Although they differed in politics, yet after he became president, few men's recommendations or suggestions were regarded with more consideration than Judge Helm's.

No one has questioned the statement in the above paragraph that Major Ben Helm purchased the Christopher Bush farm of an undetermined number of acres. At one time Bush had owned 1020 acres in Hardin County and 1000 acres in Breckinridge County. Early records indicate that Sarah Bush Johnston, the wife of Daniel Johnston, inherited 500 acres. Likely, the reason she inherited only 500 acres was because she had six brothers and two sisters who undoubtedly shared in their father's estate.

Apparently, when Sarah's land was sold, at what price we have no record, there was an agreement that she would receive credit for money due her, in supplies from the Helm & Green General Store.

(Continued p. 44)

## SOCIETY'S OFFICERS

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## FROM THE EDITOR

This is the last issue of the 1985 series. Hopefully I will get back on the regular publication schedule in the next few weeks.

With the new year we are entering our seventh year of publication of BITS & PIECES. It has been a pleasant and growing six years. All of you who have contributed by your articles and by your continued participation in the Society and by your continued support through letters and comments are to be greatly thanked for making this a lasting publication. Without you there would be no reason for the existence of BITS & PIECES.

If you wish to contact me please feel free to write me either at 128 N. Main St., Elizabethtown, KY 42701 or at my home address 1869 Miller Road, Elizabethtown, KY 42701.

## BOOKS FOR SALE BY THE SOCIETY

TWO CENTURIES IN ELIZABETHTOWN AND HARDIN COUNTY, KY 1776-1976  
 by Daniel E. McClure, Jr. Hardcover, illus, 850pp. \$31.25ppd.

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All orders for books may be sent to Mrs. June Thornberry, 128 N. Main St., Elizabethtown, KY 42701

DUES! DUES! DUES! Your 1986 dues are now being accepted. The dues are now \$8.00 per member per year. Please remit to Mrs. June Thornberry, 128 N. Main St., Elizabethtown, KY 42701

TIDBIT--Hardin County ENTERPRISE, 25 Aug 1927  
 Miss Lillie C. Goldnamer, daughter of S. Goldnamer, merchant, died at her home in the city after one year of illness.

## COURT ORDER BOOK, HARDIN COUNTY, KY. 1797 (23 MAY)

At a Court Held for Hardin County on Tuesday the 23rd day of May 1797

Present Stephen Rawlings George Helm and James McMahan Gent Justices

John Prier Gent produced a Commifision under the hand and seal of his Excellency James Garrard Governor appointing him a Justice of the peace which was openly Read in Court whereupon he took the Oath required by law

William Bushes Ear mark is as followeth a Crop and an under bit in each ear

On the application of Anthony Walton White by his agent It is ordered that the Clerk of this do Ifsue his warrant directed to Benjamin Helm George Helm Isaac Morrison and Thomas McIntire Gent who are hereby appointed Commifisioners agreeably to an act of Afsembly intituled an Act to afscertain the boundaries of Land and for other purposes requiring them or any two of them to attend the said Anthony or his agent to the beginning or any special place Called for in an Entry of Ten thousand acres made in the name of the said Anthony Walton White to take on Oath the Depositions of such persons as may be brought forward by the parties and to do such other thing or things as may be deemed necefsary by the said recited Act

Samuel May appellant vs. Robert Rochester appelee upon an appeal from a Magistrates Jungment \_\_\_ for Debt and Costs by the said Samuel

In the motion of Jacob Bringle it is ordered that the Clerk of this Court do Ifsue his warrant directed to Charles Helm Moses Pigg William Curnstalk an Samuel Crawford Gent who are hereby appointed Commifisioners agreeably to an act of Afsembly intituled an Act to Afscertain the boundaries of land and for other purposes requiring them or any two of them to attend the said Bringle to the beginning or any special place called for in an Entry of four hundred acres made in the name of the said Jacob Bringle to take an oath the Depositions of such persons as may be brought forward by the parties to prove any special place called for in said Entry and to do such other thing or things as by the said recited act may be deemed ceefsary

On the application of Randolph Spicer it is ordered that the Clerk of this Court do Ifsue his Warrant to Benjamin Helm John Vertrees & George Helm Gent who are hereby appointed Commifisioners agreeably to act of Afsembly intituled an Act to Afscertain the boundaries of Land & for other purposes requiring them or any two of them to attend the said Spicer to the boundaries or any special place called for in an Entry of 400 acres made in the name of the said Spicer on the Rolling fork also to ditto in the name of Filmon Camper also ditto in the name of Joseph Anderson then and there to take on Oath the Depositions of such persons as may be brought forward by the parties to prove any special place called for in said Entries and to do such other thing or things as by the said recited act may be deemed necefsary

Ordered that James Weathers be appointed Constable

James Love Gent produced a nomination from Charles Helm Gent Surveyor appointing him his Deputy and thereupon he took the Oath of a Surveyor

On the petition of Richard McMahan for one acre of Land to build a water Grist mill on a report being made and returned and it appearing reasonable to the Court in \_\_\_\_\_ in order to be recorded which report is as follows agreeable to an order of the County Court of Hardin we of the Jury being Summoned and Sworn as the Law directs have view the Land petitioned for and Laid off the same Beginning at a White Oak standing on the west bank of said Spring run thence running down the same Eightpoles to a black Dark Oak Thence crofsging the run and runing on a Northwardly Course twenty poles to a stake thence Southwardly Eight poles to a stake thence to the Beginning we also adjudge the acre of Land to be of the Value of twelve Shillings we also say that no person will be injured by overflowing waters by reason of said Dam neither will it annoy the health of the neighborhood neither will it Obstruct navigation or Fishery neither will it be injurious to Orchards Gardens Curtlages Mansion house or office given under our hands and seals this 13th day of Aprile 1797 John Berry Thos Merryfield Gavin Allison Thomas Davit Edward Rawlings Samuel Forrester Jacob Vanmatre J<sup>o</sup>/n McMahan John Allison Joseph Adams Joseph vanmatre Michael Youtsler

It is ordered that the acre of Land Laid off as in the said report be granted the petitioner

In the petition of Francis pairpoint for one acre of land to build a Water Grist Mill on a report being made and returned and appearing reasonable to the Court in order to be recorded which report is as follows Agreeable to an order pafsed by the County Court of Hardin we the Jurors being Legally Summoned and sworn as the Law directs have laid off one acre of Land within mentioned Beginning at a Stake on the West bank of Youngers Creek above the saw mill running thence Westwardly fourteen poles thence Northwardly Eleven poles thence Eastwardly to the Creek thence Southwardly to the beginning including the water Grist Mill and Saw Mill which Lands we do adjudge to be of the value of twelve Shillings We also do not Consider that the overflowed Land by reason of said Dam will injure any person neither annoy the health of the neighbors neither will be any injury to any Courtelage orchard Garden Mansion house or Office neither will be of any Obstruction to navigation or fishery given under our hands and seals this first day Aprile 1797 Samuel Gooden John Creamer George Bertmefs John Bortmefs Samuel Gooden Junr Peter Caneday Bladin Ashby Jacob Westfall Mark Marshall Richard Edilin William Edlin Isaac Goodin

Ordered that the acre of Land Laid off as in the report be granted the petitioner

Ordered that Nicholas Miller and George Berry do view a road from the Courthouse to the mouth of Big Canen and make report thereof to Court

Ordered that the repairing the Courthouse and building a Log Jail & Erecting Stocks be let to the lowest Bidder at the Next July Court and that the sheriff Advertise the same

Ordered that james nourse Isaac Hargis Robert Hodgins & Joseph Kirkpatrick or any three of them being first sworn do view the most convenent way for a road from Mr. Hodgins Old mill to Green County line on a direct way to the Courthouse of said County and make report thereof to the next Court

Ordered that John Gardner do appear here at the next Court to answer the Complaint of the sheriff for not procuring property Engough to discharge his County Levy

Ordered that Court be adjourned till Court in Course Step Rawlings

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Ordered that Court be adjourned till Court in Course  
Step Rawlings

ELIZABETHTOWN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES 1817

At a Meeting of A board of Trustees on Saturday the 15th of February at the house of Samuel Stevenson in Elizabeth Town Present Daniel Waide Ben Helm James Crutcher & Daniel Williams Gentlemen

A Deed from the Trustees to Edward M Govern by virtue of a Decree of the Hardin Circuit Court was Acknowledged before the Clerk of Hardin County Court for Lott No 3

Ordered that this Board adjourn

Attest J Hedges CBT

Danl Waide

At a Meeting of A board of Trustees on Tuesday the 18th of February 1817 at the Clerks office in Elizabeth Town Present Ben Helm Daniel Williams & Daniel Waide Gentlemen

Jackson Hedges Clerk of this Board resigned his said office and hereupon the Board proceeded to appoint Samuel Haycraft Junior Clerk protempore of this board

Ordered that this board adjourn

Attest Saml Haycraft Jr. Clk Protém

Danl Waide

In pursuance of an act of assembly directing Elections to be held in the several County Towns of this State on the 1st Monday in August Annually for the purpose of Electing five Trustees for the said Towns I cause an election to be held at the Court House in Elizabeth Town on Monday the 4th day of August 1817 for the purpose aforesaid and caused to be elected by the qualified voters of said Town as Trustees the following persons to wit Gabriel Wathern William Parcels William S. Young Horatio G Wintersmith and James Crutcher as appears by the polls returned to the Clerk of the Hardin County Court Given under my hand this 4th day of August 1817

Saml Haycraft Jr. Clk Protém

Thursday 28th August 1817

At A Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Elizabeth Town on Thursday the 28th day of August 1817 at the House of Samuel Martin Esquire Present Horatio G Wintersmith William Parcels Gabries Wathen Trustees

On Motion made and seconded Horatio G Wintersmith is appointed Chairman of this Board

On motion of Edward S Armstrong he is permitted to exhibit Natural Curiosities in this Town from this day untill the End of the next week And that he be taxed the sum of five Dollars to be paid to the Clerk of this board on the first day of September to be applied as the board may order Present James Crutcher

Ordered that Samuel Haycraft Junior be appointed Clerk of this board

Ordered that the board adjourn till meeting in course

Attest Saml Haycraft Jr Clerk

H G Wintersmith Ch

At a meeting of the board of Trustees of Elizabeth Town on Saturday the 6th day of December 1817 at the house of William Parcels Present William S Young William Parcels & Gabriel Wathen

William S Young is appointed chairman of this board for the present meeting

Whereas It is represented that Michael Alexander is about to exhibit in this town a pig which he represents as possessing some literary Acquirements It is ordered that if the said exhibition takes place that he pay to the Clerk of this board the sum of two dollars per day before he Commences the Same to be applied in Such manner as the board may direct

Ordered that the board adjourn

W S Young

AND THEN THERE WERE... by Lucille Holton Harp (Continued from Vol. VI, 3, p. 35.)

James Hulen Turley's line extends backward to Aaron Turley and Rebecca Hulen (father-Andrew Hewling), to Ignatius Turley, Sr., and Rachel, and then to Paul Turley and Sarah. Paul was born in 1705 and died in Fairfax County, Virginia, in 1772. He lived on Johnnymore Creek.

William C. Doyle's line extends back to Samuel Doyle and Mary "Polly" Conley, to Gregory C. Doyle and Mary Gott, and then to Samuel Doyle who came from Ireland.

Henry Morrison Doyle's parents were Richardson C. Doyle and Nancy C. Esters. R.C. and Nancy C. had Susan b. 1846, md. Isaac Staples; Rachel md. Charles W. Morrison; Isaac M. 1855-1889, md. Mary Susan Gray; Henry M.; George W. 1850-1910, md Alsice Callie Jones; Mary J. b. 1860, md. G. W. Meredith; William H. b. 1884, md. Martha Ann Adwell and Armity Whitlow; and G.E.F. b. 1852.

Nancy Catherine Holton's parents were Thomas Shephard Holton 9 May 1819-21 Mar 1880 and Elizabeth Ashworth b. 2 Nov 1826. Nancy's sisters and brothers were Jacob b. 17 Jan 1846, md. Masoutt Lane; Sarah Agnes b. 1 Dec 1847, md. Isaac w. Coats; Mary E. b. 26 Nov 1848; William Thomas b. 31 Mar 1853, Md. Sarah Elizabeth Coats; Martha Paradine b. 7 Sep 185? md. William H. Crump.

The 1860 Edmonson County Census shows T. S. Hotten (should be Holton), 39, Farmer, 150 Real Est., 500 Per. Est., b. KY; Elizabeth, 31; Jacob, 14; Sarah A., 10; William, 7; Martha, 4; Catherine, 2. This Census also shows Wm. Hotten (Holton), 48, Farmer, 500 Real Est., 300 Per. Est., b. KY; Martha (Martha J. "Patsy" Doyle), 44; John, 20; Mary, 17; Isaac, 10; Sarah, 8; Gregory, 5; John Holton, 94, b. PA.

I'm wondering if this John Holton is the father of Wm. and T.S.? Mom found these records on the name John Holton. (Does anyone have information relating to them? I understand Holton Valley at Mammoth Cave was named for a John Holton. Does anyone know who this John was?):

John Holton md. Mary "Polly" Kelly 27 Oct 1810, Barren Co, KY daughter of Thomas Kelly. He was a Methodist minister who attended Highland Methodist Church out from Cave City.

John Holton md. Eletha Jane Garvin 11 Dec 1862, in Edmonson Co. Their children were Martha, md Ebenezer Davis; Elizabeth Betsy, md. Alexander Strange; Alice; and John Jr.

John md. Betsy Eliz. Doyle. She died in 1890. (No children)

John md. Rachel Age. He died in 1925. (No children)

John md. Josie May Emerson 1 Jan 1913.

John Holton bought 100 acres on Green River 23 June 1823 from Michael and Elander Clifford.

John gave a deed of mortgage to John T. S. Brown and Patrick Brown and Thomas Brown for 100 acres on Green River for \$35.32½, 21 Dec 1830.

John-land to John Asher, 1 Jul 1846, 100 acres, \$100.

John and Mary Kelly Holton to John W. Slemmons, 2 tracts of 100 acres and 150 acres which he purchased from Matthew Garrison, 13 Jun 1850.

Mrs. Frances Parker of Lexington, KY sent Mom a genealogy on the descendants of Wm Holton Sr. b. 1739, and Abigail Gorman. They had 10 children: Mildred md Enoch O'Rear; John B. md 1797 in Mason Co. to Nancy Blassingame; William, Jr. md Eliz. Cook; Elijah md Susannah Mosby; Rebecca md John Ashford Dowden; Alexander md Sarah Hieatt; Jesse md Jane Ireland; Elizabeth md Robert Walton; Enoch W. md Martha Brock; and Abner md Mary Blackerby.

(Alexander and Sarah had 3 children. Their daughter Mary md Daniel Cave 22 Oct 1822. Mary's daughter Martha md Nicholas Lindsay and became the grandparents of the American poet Vachel Lindsay.)

There were several related Johns in the Wm Holton genealogy.

Helen C. Hadden, Rt. 4, Clintonville Rd., Paris, KY sent a Holton Coat of Arms showing the Arms: Azure, three eagles displayed gules, the Crest: A scroll azure, the Motto: Labor omnia superat - "Labor overcomes all things," the authority: MacKenzie's COLONIAL FAMILIES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, Vol. IV. The Colors: a blue shield, red eagles, a blue scroll, a steel helmet, a wreath of gold and blue and a mantling of blue lined in gold. Blue denotes loyalty, truth and a Godly disposition; red-strength and courage; blue with red-an aptitude to reprove villainy.

William Holton, from McKenzie, was outlined. He was b. 1611, d. 1691. He came to Mass. in the FRANCIS in 1634 from Ipswich, County Suffolk, England. In 1630 he was one of the first settlers of Hartford, Conn.; in 1654 of Northampton, Mass. He erected the first house of worship in Northampton, was a Justice of the Peace, was the first elected Deacon of that first church, was rep. of the Gen. Court 1664-67-69 and 71, was the first Commissioner to the General Court in Boston in effort to suppress intemperance. His name is engraved on the Forefathers Monument in the cemetery of the Central Church, Hartford, Conn. He married 15 Nov 1691 to Mary \_\_\_\_\_. His children were John d. 1712 md Abigail; Samuel; Wm. d. 1711 md 1676 Sarah Marshfield; mary md David Burt; Ruth md Joseph Baker who was killed by Indians and Thomas Lyman; Sarah md John King; Rachel md Thomas Strong; Thomas was killed by Indians.

About the author: Lucille Holton Harp is a native of Hart Co. and a teacher at Munfordville Grade School. She is an active member of the Hart Co. Historical Society and its most active genealogists. She also writes a weekly article for the Hart Co. NEWS. Lucille is the wife of Owen D. Harp, a General Contractor, and the mother of Deanna Len, a 16 year old 1986 high school senior.

Anyone who can contribute to Mrs. Harp's information on the Holton and allied families can contact her as follows: Mrs. Lucille H. Harp, Box 423, Munfordville, KY42765

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(Continued from p. 37.)

It is pure conjecture to assume that this arrangement was established to protect her estate, or part of it, from her husband Daniel who was totally inept in handling money and providing a living for his wife and three children. Likely, Mrs. Johnston was often accompanied by her young son John D. Johnston to help carry home her purchases from the firm of Helm & Green.

Mrs. Johnston's husband, who had been elected Hardin County jailor, died in June or July 1816. Thomas Lincoln and his family left Kentucky in December, 1816, and no doubt, he heard of Daniel Johnston's death before his departure for Indiana. Nancy Hanks Lincoln, his wife, died of milk sickness on October 5, 1818, and after having been a widower for more than a year, Thomas married Sarah Bush Johnston in Elizabethtown on December 2, 1819. It is not believed that Thomas Lincoln's children attended the wedding or made the trip to Elizabethtown. Immediately following the wedding Tom with Sarah and her children returned to Indiana.

Some forty years later, John B. Helm remembered a child who accompanied Mrs. Johnston to the general store and how he gave the boy maple sugar after giving him a seat on a nail-keg. Undoubtedly, he thought that child was Abraham Lincoln. This grocery clerk, a nephew of Major Ben Helm, was an intelligent and ambitious young man who achieved a notable career, eventually becoming Judge of the Court of Common Pleas in Hannibal, Missouri.

According to Judge Helm, Abraham Lincoln paid a visit to his city in 1860 following a political speaking tour in Kansas. The legend relates that Lincoln was accompanied by several friends probably of Republican persuasion and upon introducing them to Judge Helm, said, "Gentlemen, here is the first man I ever knew who wore store clothes all the week; he is the same man who fed me maple sugar, when a small boy, as I sat upon a nail-keg in his uncle's store."

Surley this nail-keg story has been garbled. It appears more likely Judge Helm's story than Lincoln's. How could it have originated with Lincoln who left Kentucky while still seven years of age, who had lived some twelve or fourteen miles from Elizabethtown and who had no contact whatsoever with Mrs. Sarah Bush Johnston until after her marriage to Thomas Lincoln?

It is also well to point out other discrepancies in the account of Lincoln's little known visit to Hannibal, Missouri, in 1860 when he was said to have been a candidate for the presidency and was returning from a business trip to Kansas. It is true that Lincoln did give some political speeches in several cities in Kansas in 1859, but upon his return to Springfield, Illinois, he wrote Norman B. Judd on December 9, 1859, that he, "would rather have a full term in the Senate than one in the Presidency." Then too, it is of interest to point out that Lincoln did not leave Springfield during the presidential canvass. Lincoln adhered to the view that presidential candidates should not campaign. Furthermore, based on a study titled, LINCOLN DAY BY DAY-1849-1860, Lincoln did not visit the state of Missouri in 1860. Lincoln did travel on the Peoria & Hannibal Railroad on December 1, 1859 enroute to Saint Joseph, Missouri, which is the only connection that can be found to place Lincoln in Hannibal, Missouri in 1859. By December 8th, Lincoln was enroute home to Springfield but there is no record of the route of his return.

Next to the last sentence in the paragraph in question is the statement that although Judge Helm and President Lincoln differed in politics "few men's recommendations or suggestions were regarded with more consideration than Judge Helm's." This is a puzzling statement as no letters or recommendations from Judge Helm are to be found in the Abraham Lincoln papers in the Library of Congress, neither are there any letters, documents, or miscellaneous papers addressed by the Sixteenth President to Judge Helm in THE COLLECTED WORKS OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

How Lewis Collins or his son Richard H. Collins obtained the details of the meeting in Hannibal, Missouri, of which Lincoln historians, even today, have no record is unknown. It would only be supposition to assume that the information was supplied to Richard H. Collins (who expanded his father's work to the year 1874) by Samuel Haycraft, Jr. whose HISTORY OF ELIZABETHTOWN, KENTUCKY, AND ITS SURROUNDINGS (which was written in 1869) predated the Collins' HISTORY OF KENTUCKY by five years. Haycraft engaged in extensive correspondence with Judge John B. Helm his brother-in-law when he compiled information for his book and he included a brief summary of the details relative to the Hannibal, Missouri, meeting which when once published in book form appeared on pages 112 and 113.

It's a dandy yarn. John D. Johnston probably did sit on a nail-keg in the Helm & Green store and ate maple sugar. Too bad for history buffs it wasn't Abraham Lincoln.

NOTE: For additional information relative to this subject, see the chapter titled, "Lincoln and John B. Helm" in R. Gerald McMurtry's book, A SERIES OF MONOGRAPHS CONCERNING THE LINCOLNS AND HARDIN COUNTY, KENTUCKY, The Enterprise Press, Elizabethtown, Kentucky, 1938, pages 31-34.

WHO WAS WHO IN HARDIN COUNTY by Hardin County Historical Society  
CHRISTOPHER BUSH by George K. Holbert (Originally printed in the  
Elizabethtown NEWS, 1939.)

Christopher Bush (senior) was among the very early arrivals here and at Hardinsburg. He and Michael Leonard came with the little company led by Big Bill Hardin from "the fastnesses of the Alleghenies in a frail boat, with their wives and children...descended the rushing Monongahela, into and down the palcid Ohio...ended their voyage at the mouth of Hardin's Creek (now called Sinking"); and on April 30, 1780, began work on the erection of a fort and block-house at what is now Hardinsburg, in the present Breckinridge County, then in that part of Jefferson County which later became Nelson (1784) and included within the original Hardin County as created by act of 1792. Some of the historians have been a year late in ascribing 1781 as the date of the establishment of Hardin's Station. In a deposition given by Christopher Bush in 1804 and recorded in the land processioner's book at Hardinsburg, Bush was asked, in identifying certain lands and streams, where he was residing when he made these observations, and made the direct answer, "I lived at Hardin's Station in 1780 and 1781," and mentioned others, including "my boys," who should also know the same facts. In other depositions by Bush and Hardin the date 1780 is

made equally definite. However, because of early Indian attacks, in which one of their companions (Sinclair) was killed, they spent part of the first winter in Fort Hynes.

Bush took up several hundred acres by patent and purchase on the present Hardin's Creek (called in the early days Limestone-- a different stream from Sinking), some adjoining the land on which the Station stood, and acquired of Bladen Ashby a tract on Shot Puch (sic) Creek, a branch of Hardin's Creek. It seems apparent that he then intended to make his permanent home at that settlement, and he also conveyed to his son, William, a hundred acres "on a branch of Limestone." After some years, however, he returned to the Elizabethtown settlement, disposing of his Hardin's Settlement holdings to Hardin, the Claycombs, the Millers and others. In 1799 he purchased of John Warford 300 acres on Valley Creek adjoining Capt. John Vertrees and beginning at a "white hickory in said Vertrees line about twelve poles above the said Vertrees spring on the west side of the creek," and the following year purchased of the trustees of Elizabethtown lot No. 28 consisting of a half-acre on the north corner of Main and Poplar Streets.

Haycraft, the historian, says of him: "He was of German descent, a stirring, industrious man, and had a large family of sons and daughters. The sons were stalwart men, of great muscular power; there was no backout in them; never shunned a fight when they considered it necessary to engage in it, and nobody ever heard one cry 'enough'." With German thrift and pioneer instincts he lived simply but substantially, had his truck patches, his horses, cattle, hogs and sheep, and owned a slave--a Negro woman named "Henna." He marked his hogs with "a crop and a bit in the right ear," which earmark he duly registered in the county court clerk's office.

He and his son, Samuel, were successful plaintiffs against John Handley in the first jury trial held in Hardin County, April term, 1793. In 1797 he was appointed constable, an office he held for a number of terms, and while such official arrested the distinguished Ninian Edwards who in turn sued him in trespass for assault and battery and false imprisonment, the case appearing to have passed off after the exhibition of proper indignation. Anyhow the State paid the constable for making the arrest. He also served as road viewwe and in other public capacities. At the June term, 1801, the court appointed him to take care of Alexander Murdaugh, "a poor person," for three month at the rate of fifteen pounds per year. He evidently made a good job of it, as he was reappointed at the following October term to look after Alec for the other nine months. He was relieved at the August term, 1803, from "working on the road," the old method of keeping the roads in passible condition.

Both Christopher Bush and Big Bill Hardin were men of large physique and powerful in strength and courage. They must have been a formidable pair against the skulking Indians about Hardin' settlement. And when there were no more Indians to fight they tried their prowess on each other; for Christopher and Big Bill fell out--fell out and fought. And each felt himself sufficiently battered to sue the other for damages. Hardin's case was tried first. At the August term, 1802, of the old Quarter Sessions Court of Breckinridge County, a jury awarded Big Bill five dollars in damages for the bruises Christopher had given him; and at the following

November term of the same court another jury decided that Big Bill had likewise put five dollars' worth on Christopher.

One writer has referred to Christopher Bush as the "type of block from which fell such chips as Elijah." And this is figurative or literal, as you like; for from this "block" came Elijah Bush, a worthy son, who married Nancy Bruce, and lived an upright and useful citizen. The son, Isaac, followed his father's footsteps as constable of the county. This is the Isaac Bush who was shot at Hardinsburg by Elijah Hardin, son of Big Bill, and when the doctor proposed to tie him while they cut out the bullet, spurned such belittling of his nerve and chewed on a musket ball while an incision one inch deep and nine inches long was laid open before the bullet was found. Of the other children of Christopher Bush, William married Elizabeth Rhoads, John married Charlotte Thorp and then Peggy Glenn, Samuel married Margaret Miller, Rachel married Samuel Smallwood, Hannah married Ichabod Radley, early school-teacher at Bardstown, Elizabethtown and Hardinsburg; but the two remaining gave most to history. Christopher, junior, the youngest son, married Polly Goodin and became the father of Martin M. Bush, "one of the best surveyors in the State," and W.P.D. Bush, Robert Y. Bush, and Squire H. Bush, well-known lawyers in their day, and Mary Ellen Bush who became the wife of Judge Martin H. Cofer. W. P.D. Bush practiced at Hawesville, served a number of terms in the Legislature and became Reporter of the Kentucky Court of Appeals, bringing out the fourteen volumes of decisions known to the legal profession as the "Bush Reports." Sarah (Sally), the youngest daughter of Christopher Bush, senior, married Daniel Johnston (1806) who became jailer of the county and veteran of the War of 1812, and after his death she married (December 2, 1819) Thomas Lincoln, father of the President, and her care of and influence upon the young boy have won the plaudits of a nation.

Christopher Bush made his will February 24, 1812, "desirous to provide for my loving wife as amply as my little property will admit of and also wishing to do equal justice between my children," and died at his farm home here the early part of 1813. The personal property given the wife was appraised at \$252.29, and the remainder at \$221.00. He also owned real estate, including the farm and lot No. 46 in Hardinsburg. To his widow, Hannah Bush, with the use of "the plantation," went also "two horses or mares, the choice of all I have (she chose a span of matched browns, a horse and a mare) and four cows," the farm utensils, the household and kitchen furniture, including such articles typical of the day as one chest, a cupboard, pair of dog-irons, one big wheel, and flax wheel and reel, a flax hackle, one large and two little pots, and three big "kittles."

DO YOU REMEMBER--Compiled by W. H. Marriott, 1974

WATKINS--Granville Watkins was a leading merchant in Elizabethtown for many years and was highly esteemed. He was senior partner in the firm Watkins and Company. Later it became the site of the Taylor Hotel. His wife was formerly Miss Ellen Doran. Their only daughter, Daisy, was married to Dr. J.C. Montgomery. Mr. Watkins was born in 1843 and died in 1912.

MOORMAN--Henry De Haven Moorman of Hardinsburg served as Commonwealth Attorney in the 9th Judicial District when it comprised four counties. He was a vigorous prosecutor and served a term of two years in Congress.

ADDENDUM

It has come to my attention that the Christ Episcopal Church lists of births, deaths and marriages were originally compiled by Mrs. Mary Jo Jones of Elizabethtown. The copy of the material that I used did not list a compiler so Mrs. Jones did not get the credit she is due for her fine work. Thank you Mary Jo for your work that made my work so much easier.

The Editor

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