

Bits and Pieces of Hardin County History

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MARTIN HARDIN COFER AND THE ORPHAN BRIGADE

by Jerry M. Coleman

Martin Hardin Cofer was born in Elizabethtown, Kentucky, on April 1, 1832, to Thomas and Mary Hardin Cofer. (1) His father died of cholera in the cholera epidemic which struck Elizabethtown in the mid-1800's. (2) Through his mother, the daughter of Martin Hardin, for whom Cofer was named, Cofer belonged to the prominent Hardin family of Elizabethtown. (3) His great-uncle, Colonel John Hardin, for whom Hardin County was named, was killed by the Indians in 1792 in the Northwest Territory where he had been sent on a peace mission by General Wilkinson, the military commander of the West. (4)

The Hardin family was prominent not only throughout Hardin County, but in surrounding counties as well. Cofer's great-aunt, Lydia Hardin, married Charles Wickliffe of Bardstow, Kentucky, and became the mother of Charles A. Wickliffe governor of Kentucky. (5) Lydia Hardin became the grandmother of Robert C. Wickliffe, who later became the governor of Louisiana. Lydia Hardin also became the great-grandmother of J.C.W. Beckham, another governor of Kentucky.

Martin Cofer's boyhood was spent on a farm in Hardin County. What little education he received came largely from his own efforts. In 1852, at the age of 20, Cofer began teaching a rural common school. He also began the study of law at this time. (6)

One year later, on May 8, 1853, at the age of 21, Martin Cofer was married to Mary Ellen Bush, niece of Sara Bush Lincoln, the step-mother of President Lincoln. (7) They had one child, a son named Harvey Cofer. (8)

Cofer began to practice law in Elizabethtown in 1856 at the age of 24. (9) His law partner was Ben Hardin Helm, son of Governor John Helm and brother-in-law of President Abraham Lincoln. (10) Helm was married to Emily Iodd, sister of Mary Iodd Lincoln, wife of the President. Helm was also a cousin of Martin Cofer on the Hardin side of the families. Helm's mother, Lucinda Hardin Helm, was the daughter of Ben Hardin, the renowned lawyer in Elizabethtown in the 1800's. (11)

In April of 1860, at the age of 28, Cofer was commissioned a Captain of the Hardin County Light Infantry. (12) It was also during that year that Cofer became editor of the Elizabethtown DEMOCRAT. (13)

Martin Cofer's political affiliation was that of a Southern Rights Democrat. (14) He had strong Southern sympathies both before and during the War Between the States. He helped try to bring about the secession of Kentucky from the

Union after Lincoln's election in November, 1860. (15) Cofer ran for the Kentucky Legislature in August, 1861, on the Southern Rights ticket but was defeated. (16) It would perhaps be safe to assume that Cofer's defeat in this election was due not to his own shortcomings, but to the general consensus rolling across the state at that time that Kentucky should remain in the Union and thus should elect pro-Union legislators.

It is ironic that Cofer's political views were so different from those of President Lincoln, given the fact that Cofer's wife was the niece of Lincoln's step-mother and that Lincoln was the brother-in-law of Cofer's law partner. With such close ties to the President, one would think that Cofer might have been more supportive of the President. However, Cofer was not alone in his feelings at the time. For in the Presidential election of November, 1860, Lincoln received only 6 votes out of 2,191 cast in Hardin County. (17) Of those 6 votes, only 1 came from Elizabethtown. (18) Needless to say, Lincoln's views were not popular in Hardin County, the President's county of birth.

Indeed, Ben Hardin Helm himself did not share Lincoln's viewpoint. After visiting the President at the White House, and then turning down an offer to be appointed Major in the Union Army by President Lincoln, Helm helped Martin Cofer raise soldiers for the Confederacy, and became a Confederate General himself. (19)

Although Hardin County sent approximately as many soldiers to the Union side as were sent to the Confederate side, (20) it was Martin Cofer who played perhaps the leading role in recruiting Confederate soldiers in Hardin County. He initially raised a company of Confederate volunteers from Elizabethtown and was later ordered to raise additional recruits. (21) It was these recruits, along with those of fellow attorney Joe Lewis from Glasgow, Kentucky, that formed the 6th Confederate Kentucky Infantry, a part of the 1st Confederate Kentucky Brigade, later to be known as the "Orphan Brigade." (22) We shall see how this renowned and respected Confederate Brigade acquired its name.

As a reward for his recruiting services, Cofer was commissioned a Lieutenant Colonel in the Confederate Army in September, 1861, and placed second in command of the 6th Kentucky Infantry, behind Col. Joe Lewis. (23) Cofer later rose to the rank of Colonel on September 30, 1863, and took command of the 6th Kentucky Infantry after Lewis achieved command of the entire Orphan Brigade at the Battle of Chickamauga in September, 1863. (24)

Undoubtedly, many members of the Orphan Brigade, composed primarily of Kentuckians such as Martin Cofer and Ben Hardin Helm, initially thought that most of the fighting between the Union and Confederacy would occur in their native state of Kentucky. However, that was not to be the case, and hence the origin of their name "The Orphan Brigade."

The Brigade travelled throughout the South, fighting in many of the major battles of the War. (Continued page

COURT ORDER BOOK, HARDIN COUNTY, KENTUCKY 1801 APRIL

At a County Court began and held at the Court house in Elizabethtown on Monday the 13th day of April 1801

Present Philip Read Stephen Rawlings & Daniel Vitertow Esq.

On the Motion of Richard Bibb It is ordered that from and after the next October Court a ferry be established across the Rolling fork of Salt River from the mouth of Ceder Creek to the opposite side on the land of the said Richard Bibb Upon bond & security according to Law

Ordered that Alexander Keath be exempted from the future payments of Levies in this County

The last will & testament of Josiah Grover was produced in Court and proved by the Oath of Greenberry Harrison & ordered to lie for further proof

Ordered that all the hands from BuHalse (sic.) Creek down to the foot of the big hill and on the fourth five of Clear Creek do assist Michael Roll in keeping the road in repair of which he is Surveyor and that the above hands be exempted from working on the road of which Francis Pairpoint is Surveyor

Ordered that Henry Dittow Richard Dougherty Joseph Smith & Benjamin Vanvacter or any three of them being first sworn before a Magistrate of this County do view the best and most convenient way for a road to be opened from the mouth of Cedar Creek on the Rolling fork to Breckenridge line on a direct Course to the Courthouse together with the Conveniences & inconveniences attending the same and make report thereof to the next Court

Ordered that Nathanel Overall be appointed Surveyor of the road in the room of Isaac Vertrees and that the same hands assist the said Overall that assisted the said Vertrees

Ordered that John Storm, Jonathan Boyir, Jacob Arttom being first sworn before a magistrate of this County do review the road leading from Jacob Artman to Jonathan Boziethers & report to Court the conveniences & inconveniences attending the same

John W. Holt having produced a license and the Oath required by law being administered to him he is admitted to practice as an Attorney at law in this County

Ichabod Radly's earmark a crop off each ear and a hole in the left ear Ordered to be recorded

On the motion of William Withers It is ordered that he be exempted from the future payment of Taxes & County levies for a Negro woman named Tiller

Present Ison Enlow Esquire

Ordered that Elisa Spierior be appointed Surveyor of the road in the room of Ezekial Harlin and that the same hands assist him in keeping the same in repair that assisted the said Harlin

On the motion of Elizabeth McGoveran & John Kannady who made oath according to law Administration of the Estate of

Charles McGoveran deceased is granted them They having given bond with Asa Coombes & Nicholas Miller their Securities in the penalty of One thousand Dollars Conditioned as the law directs

Present Afa Coombes Esquire

Ordered that Stephen Rawlings Afa Coombes Samuel Haycraft & Robert Huston or any three of them being first sworn before a Magistrate of this County do appraise in Current Money the Slaves (if any) and personal estate of Charles McGoveran deceased and return the appraisement to the next Court

James McKee vs Thomas Hart Magistrates Judgment reversed with Costs

Same vs Same Alexander McKee claims one days attce. and travelling thirty five miles for pl.

Same vs Same Jonas Gray claims one days attendance for pl.

Same vs Same William McKee claims One days attendance for fame

Same vs Same John Dougherty claims one days attendance for fame

On the Application of Jacob Linder It is ordered that a warrant issue directed to David Morrison Afa Coombes & Jacob Vanmetre Senr appointing them Commissioners agreeably to an act of Assembly entitled and Act to Ascertain the boundaries of lands & for other purposes requiring them or nay two of them to attend the said applicant at such certain time as he may appoint to an entry made in the mane of Matthew Ridgely of 100 acres on Nolinn about twelve miles from Elizabeth Town to take on oath the depositions of such witnesses as may be brought forward to establish the beginning or any Special Call in said Entry and It is ordered that a warrant issue accordingly

Ordered that Michael Rentch be appointed Surveyor of the road in the room of Francis Pairpoint of the road that leads from Elizabeth Town to Bairdstown and that the fame hands assist him in keeping the fame repair that assisted the said Pairpoint except those that are to assist Michael Roll

Ordered that John Enlow be exempted from the future payment of County levies

A deed from Isom Enlow to Robert Cranford acknowledged & O R

Present Thomas McIntire & George Bell Esquires

On the motion of James Young It is ordered that a ferry be established across the River Ohio at the mouth of Salt River and that the said James Young be appointed Ferry Keeper he having Complied with what the law in this case requires and he be allowed three shillings for transporting man & horse and for other pasengers agreeable to an Act of Assembly in that Case made & provided

John Crutcher vs William Bush Judgment for ten Dollars & costs

John Crutcher vs Christopher Bush Magistrates judgment reversed with costs

Amount of Sales of the estate of Joseph Elder deceased
returned & Ordered to Record

The persons appointed to reveiw the road from opasite to W Ogdons to the mouth of Salt river This day made their report in these words In obesiance to an Order of the worship full Court of Hardin County to us directed bearing date January Court 1801 ordering us to veiw the road from oposite W Ogdons to the mouth of Salt River have met and being first fworn have veiwed the fame also the different ways the road might be turned and am of opinion that if the road was turned oposite where W Ogdon mowed hay last year and continue between the present road and Dittoes path to the top of the big hill and Strike said path near the top of the hill and go with it to the River Bottom, then leave the path to the left hand pasing under the foot of the hill till it Abrahams run continuing the Course till it strikes the present road with the fame (with fame little alterations to Salt river) will be of advantage to the public and no disadvantage to individuals first, the present way down the big hill impassable for Waggons and cant be made so without immense work. Secondly the present way down Abrahams run Crosses it several times a very rockery places. The proposed way is about one eighth of a mile further. The hill is better and can easily be made paisable for loaded waggons is very dry and clear of rocky places mentioned above. Given under our hands this 16th day of February 1801 Gedeon Withers Henry Ditto James Young Wm Withers On Consideration whereof It is ordered that the said report be received & Established and that the road so laid off be & is hereby Established

The persons appointed to reveiw the road from Robert Hodgens Old mill to Sipes Mill on Oter Creek This day returned a report in these words "By virtue of an Order of Court to us directed after being first fworn we have reveiwed the Ground from Robert Hodgens Old mill to Sipes Mill on Otter Creek to wit Beginning at the aforesaid Hodgens Mill and keeping his Orchard fence on the rite hand to the top of the ridge thence with said ridge as near as the Ground will admit of for a good road leaving Isaac Freinds on the left hand thence with the aforesaid rode on nearly a strate line to the little South fork at the old croising place thence on a strate Course as the Ground will admit of to William Saltmons then with his dug rode to the foot of the hill then round the point then croising Otter Creek between the mill & the fork In February whereof we hereunto fet our hands this 23rd day of February 1801 Isaac Larue William Anderson On Consideration whereof It is ordered that the fame be received & Established

Ordered that Peter Miller Benjamin Shacklet & Jonathan Simmons & Abisa Ashcraft or any three of them being first fworn before a Majistrate of this County, do reveiw the road that leads from Elizabeth Town to Breckenridge line on a direct Course to Breckenridge Courthouse with the Conveniences & inconveniences attending the fame & make report thereof to the next Court

Linsey vs Southerland Continued at the Defts costs

Same vs Same Contd at the Defts

Same vs Same Contd fame

Same vs Same James Smith claims 1 days attendance for pl

Ordered that James Crutcher be allowed three hundred dollars for repair done to the Courthouse & jail and that the Sheriff pay the balance of the depositum which shall remain in his hands for the year 1800 to him after paying the several County creditors their respective allowances

Ordered that Afa Coombes be appointed Jailer in this County Upon entering into bond with James Crutcher his security according to law

Ordered that Benjamin Helm be appointed to take care of the Courthouse and that he keep the fame clean and be allowed twenty five cents for every day that Court shall be held therein

Ordered that Thomas McIntire & Philip Reed be appointed to view & inspect the Clerks office of this Court and report the state of the papers & records to the Court

Ordered that Court be adjourned till tomorrow morning at 9 O'clock

Philip Read

Tuesday the 14th day of March (sic) 1801

The Court met according to adjournment Present Stephen Rawlings George Bell & Asa Coombes Esquires

The persons appointed to review the road leading from Salt Lick Creek to Otter Creek this day returned their report in these words "We the Commissioners appointed by the County Court of Hardin and being duly sworn agreeable to law have viewed the ground for the within proposed road and run as follows beginning at the old mill from thence to the head of Bozarth's Lick run thence to Otter Creek at Saltmans Hill to the place of our appointed Given under our hands "Joseph Kirkpatrick" "William Anderson"

On Consideration whereof It is ordered that the fame be rejected and that Isaac Larue, Joseph Kirkpatrick & William Anderson being first sworn before a Magistrate of this County do review the said road from Robert Hodgens old mill to meet the road from Salt Lick Creek to Otter Creek & make report of the nearest best & most convenient way for said road to go together with the Conveniences of & inconveniences attending the fame and make report thereof to the next Court

Ordered that the road leading from Elizabeth Town to Ohio County line which passes Lettice Vanmetre's be and the fame is hereby Established

The persons appointed to review the road leading from Robert Hodgens Old mill to intersect the road leading from Danville at Salt Lick this day made their report. On Consideration whereof It is ordered that the fame be rejected and that Thomas Hedspeth Isaac Hoback Philip Read & William Mellinder being first sworn before a magistrate of this County do review the road leading from Robert Hodgens Old

mill to intersect the road leading from Danville at Salt Lick and make report of the most convenient & nearest way for the said road to go together with the Conveniences attending the former and make report thereof to the next Court

Hardin County Sct The 21st February 1801 we the Jurors Being lawfully summoned by virtue of an order of the County Court to appear on the road that leads from Elizabeth Town to Frakes ferry on the Rolling fork on the day aisd and having attended and being legally sworn and impanieled we have proceeded to view the said road we do agree in our verdict and say that Christopher bush dose sustain damages to the amount of five pounds by the said road going through his land and no more and for awitnefs of the same we have hereunto set our hands and seals signed Nicholas Miller L S Hardin Inomas LS Thomas Miller LS Isaac Vanmetre LS Andrew Farleigh LS Henry Grafs LS John Haywood LS Robert Huston LS Adam Young LS Daniel Linder LS John Scott LS William Allen LS Ieste Isaac Hodgen DSHC And on the consideration whereof it is the opinion of the Court that the said road be and it is hereby established & that the said sum of L 5.0 & Costs to be levied at the ____ of next County for the said Christopher Bush

Ordered that Armstead Churchill be and he is hereby appointed Surveyor of the road from Elizabeth town to Jacob Vamnaters Mill in place of Christopher Bush and that the same hands do asist him in keeping the same im repair tnat did asist the said Bush

Daniel Waid Deputy Sheriff for Robert Hodgins Sheriff of Hardin County produced here in Court his Dillinquent list for the year 1799 and made oath to the same as the law requires whereupon it was ordered that it be certiyed to the Auditor of Public accounts

Isaac Hodgens Deputy for Robert Hodgens Sheriff of Hardin County produced here in Court his List of delinquents for the 1799 and made oath thereto as the law requires whereupon It is Ordered that it be Certified to the Auditor of public accounts

Ordered that Philip Read & Thomas McIntire be & they are hereby appointed to examine & inspect the Surveyors Office of this County and report the state of the papers & records to the Court

Ordered that Samuel haycraft Charles Helm George Helm Thomas McIntire Isom Enlow & George Bell be and they are hereby appointed Commissioners for deviding and conveying lands held in partnership with non residence agreeable to an act of Afsembly in that case made and provided

Edward Rawlings late Sheriff of Hardin County produced in Court a List of delinquents for the years 1797 & 98 and made Oath thereto & the fame being examined & approved of by the Court are Ordered to be Certified to the auditor of Public Accounts

Ordered that George Bell be allowed three dollars for attending as Judge of the Election in May last And that Samuel Watkins be allowed three dollars for attending as Judge to the Same Election for their attendance three days

each to be paid out of the Depositum in the Sheriffs hands in the year 1799

Ordered that George Helm Jacob Larue Senr & Greenberry Dorsy be and they are hereby appointed Inspectors of Flour Hemp & Tobacco in this County at Beals warehouse at the mouth of the Beech Fork Upon their entering into bond and security according to Law

On the Motion of Benjamin Helm Clerk of this Court Nathaniel Wickliff is admitted to act as his Deputy he having taken the several oaths required by law & the Constitution of Kentucky

Ordered that Court be adjourned untill Court in Course
Stephen Rawlings

MARTIN HARDIN COFER (Continued from page 14)

Not once during the war did they return to their native state. (25) They had hoped to participate in the Perryville campaign, and had orders to march to Kentucky, but were disappointed when they received orders to return to the Southern states after learning that the Battle of Perryville was over and that General Bragg was retreating. (26) They were within 20 miles of Cumberland Gap and their beloved Commonwealth when they received the bitter news. In effect, they were "orphaned" from their homes and families until the war was over.

The first of the major battles the Orphan Brigade and Martin Cofer participated in was the Battle of Shiloh, fought around the Shiloh Church near Pittsburg Landing in Southern Tennessee in April, 1862. For two successive days during the hard fought battle, the Orphan Brigade distinguished themselves by holding a vital point on the Confederate left flank. (27) They helped beat back vigorous enemy assaults and themselves achieved vital ground while on the offensive. (28) In the final fighting, they stood their ground near the Shiloh Church to help insure the retreat of the main Confederate Army. (29) As is noted in William C. Davis' book THE ORPHAN BRIGADE: The ferocity of their fighting told in the losses. Of a total of 2,400 ready for duty on April 5, 1862, 844 now lay dead or wounded, more than a third of the brigade. (30)

Martin Cofer was one of those seriously wounded at Shiloh, but not fatally. (31) He later recovered to play a vital role for the Orphan Brigade for most of the remainder of the War.

At the Battle of Stone's River (called Murfreesboro in the South), fought near Murfreesboro, Tennessee on the last day of December, 1862, and the first and second days of January, 1863, Cofer was unable to participate in the Orphan Brigade's most trying times. Cofer was still recovering from his serious wound at Shiloh. It was at Stone's River that the Brigade was ordered by the Confederate Commanding General Braxton Bragg to charge over open, unprotected ground and attempt to take a hill occupied by the enemy. (32) Protecting

the Union position were some 57 cannon massed on the bluff flanking the field where the Brigade charge was to take place. (33)

As the charge began, the Kentuckians met initial success, chasing the Bluecoats from their front line positions. (34) The Brigade continued to follow the fleeing enemy to the edge of Stone's River. (35) There a number of the Orphans, particularly Martin Cofer's 6th Kentucky Infantry, went across the river after them, but unfortunately met with a murderous fire from the enemy's cannons. (36)

Unable to pursue their charge amidst the showers of enemy shell, the 6th Kentucky Infantry had to retreat along with the other Confederates participating in the charge. (37) The charge had been devastating for the Confederates, and particularly for the Kentuckians who lost 27% of their men. (38) It was then that fellow Kentuckian General John C. Breckinridge uttered his remark: "My poor Orphan Brigade! They have cut it to pieces." (39) General Breckinridge had been a former Senator and Vice-President of the United States before the War.

For Cofer and those who survived the Battle of Stone's River, the next major engagement was the Battle of Chickamauga in northern Georgia on September 18, 1863. It was here that Cofer was placed in command of the 6th Kentucky Infantry he helped recruit. (40) It was also here that the life of Cofer's cousin and law partner, General Ben Hardin Helm, was taken when an enemy rifle ball entered the General's right side, causing him to fall from his horse. (41) As he lay dying later that night, after a Confederate victory had been assured, the last word to escape from Helm's lips was "Victory". (42) Helm's body was eventually returned to Elizabethtown and buried in the Helm family cemetery near the Helm House. (43)

The loss of General Ben Hardin Helm must have been devastating to his close friend, cousin, and law partner Martin Cofer. It was also a time of great mourning for another Kentuckian who happened to be Commander-in-Chief of the enemy forces. On hearing the news of his brother-in-law's death, President Lincoln was heard to say: "I feel as David of old did when he was told of the death of Absalom." (44)

Martin Cofer survived the Battle of Chickamauga. Later, in August, 1864, he was promoted to Provost Marshal General of the entire Army of Tennessee, and placed in charge of vital supplies. (45) His organizational skills were excellent and were recognized by the Confederate Army's high command. His promotion came at a time when General John Hood's Army of Tennessee abandoned Atlanta and marched north into Tennessee. (46) Their supplies were scarce and they needed someone of extraordinary organizational abilities to control these vital supplies.

Cofer was considered by all as an officer of extraordinary merit, whose judgment was excellent, and whose sense of order was remarkable. His personal courage also gained the confidence of all. (47)

Cofer helped in organizing the remnants of the Army of Tennessee after their disastrous defeat at Nashville and succeeded in getting it across the Tennessee River at Muscle Shoals and into winter quarters in Mississippi. (48) He returned to the command of the 6th Kentucky Infantry later in 1864. (49) Cofer also helped lead the Army of Tennessee into North Carolina to join forces with General Joseph E. Johnston. (50)

The Brigade continued to fight until Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston ordered them to surrender on April 18, 1865. (51) The war was over and Cofer was orphaned no longer. He could come home to Kentucky and his beloved home in Elizabethtown.

Martin Cofer was one of the few members of the Orphan Brigade to survive. Of the approximate 2,400 who originally formed the Brigade, Cofer was one of the remaining 600 who took parole at Washington, Georgia, at the war's end. (52)

When Cofer returned to Elizabethtown in 1865, he resumed his successful practice of law. (53) In 1867, he published "A Supplemental Digest of Decisions of the Court of Appeals of Kentucky, 1853-67", which became the standard of legal authority for the State. (54) Cofer also found, like other former Confederate soldiers in Kentucky, that he was well thought of.

Following the war, Northern reconstruction policies were forced upon Kentuckians as well as the seceding Confederate states, even though Kentucky had not seceded from the Union. This did not set well with most Kentuckians. Many looked upon the former Confederates as their leaders against this oppression. In fact, it was often said that, in spirit, Kentucky seceded from the Union after the Civil War.

In particular, the officers and commanders of the old Orphan Brigade were lionized. To mention a few, General Simon B. Buckner, from Munfordville, and one time commander of the Orphan Brigade, became Governor of Kentucky. Old Joe Lewis later became a state representative, a United States Congressman for three terms, and a Chief Justice of the Kentucky Court of Appeals. Phil Lee of the 2nd Kentucky Infantry became Commonwealth's attorney for Louisville in 1868 before meeting an untimely death at age 42. Hiram Hawkins became a college president and state legislator. Colonel John Caldwell of the 9th Kentucky became a judge and later a United States Congressman. Jolly Wickliffe, from Bardstown, later became circuit judge in Nelson County, United States Attorney for the District of Kentucky, and finally brigadier general and adjutant general of the state militia. (55)

Like those just mentioned, Martin Cofer achieved prominence after the war. In 1870, Governor Stevenson appointed Cofer the Circuit Judge of Hardin County. (56) Cofer was elected to that position in his own right in 1871 for the ensuing term through 1874. (57) In August of 1874, Cofer was elected Associate Justice of the Court of Appeals,

Kentucky's highest court. (58) He held that position until 1881 when he became Chief Justice. (59) He held the title of Chief Justice until his death in Frankfort on May 22, 1881, when he was succeeded by Old Joe Lewis who had helped him recruit the 6th Kentucky Infantry. (60)

While serving as a jurist, Cofer again showed himself to be a man of leadership and strong conviction. While serving as Hardin Circuit Judge in 1871, Cofer allowed the testimony of a Negro against a white man in a case tried before him. (61) This was the first time a Kentucky Court had allowed this. (62) Cofer felt that the newly enacted 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution, as well as the Emancipation Proclamation, so required. (63) This precedent was later followed.

Elizabethtown and Hardin County can be proud of Martin Hardin Cofer. He was a leader of men. He has been described by those who knew him well as "a galant soldier, an able and incorruptible judge, one of the State's most distinguished lawyers, a humble Christian and loyal Mason, who left behind a name which is honor to the craft, to his family, and to the State." (64) He was a unique man, a man of strong convictions who had the courage and strength to act out those convictions. It was perhaps this strong sense of duty which separated him from the common mass of men. Indeed, it can be said of Martin Cofer that he lived his life as a man true to himself and his convictions. (Endnotes in next issue)

ODDS AND ENDS

HARDIN COUNTY MEN FOUGHT WITH CLARK (excerpted from an undated newspaper clipping)

The men who petitioned the Hardin County Court between August 1800 and June 1801 and produced satisfactory proof that they fought with General George Rogers Clark were Thomas Amos, Thompson Ashby, Charles Burk, William Christian, Nicholas Coombes, William Cornelious, John Dial, Isarel Dodge, James Frakes, Abner Fields, Lewis Fields, Cane Fields, Isaac Goodwin, Henry Helm, Andrew House, Abraham Hunter, William Johnson, Robert Lashley, Jacob Pental, Hardin Thomas, Uriah Thompson, Capt. Jacob Vanmetre, Capt. John Vertreese, William Wells and Thomas Winn.

Samuel Goodin asked to be reimbursed for furnishing unprepared beef, James Johnston for a bell impression, and William Miller for one gun improvement.

MINUTE BOOK OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ELIZABETHTOWN GRADED SCHOOL

Elizabethtown, KY Augt 17th 1877

Pursuant to mutual agreement of all the members of the board, met at the room of C Hotopp

Present C Hotopp M Sweets and J W Matthis

On motion and second it is resolved that subscription of

funds are now sufficient for this board to proceed to establish a Graded School in this district

On motion and second it is resolved that we occupy both public seminaries in Elizabethtown with the school

On motion and second it is resolved that we employ one principal and one assistant teacher to conduct the school at each house

On motion and second it is resolved that we fix the salary of each principal teacher at \$70.00 per month and of one assistant teacher at \$42.50 per month and one at \$40.00 per month

On motion and second it is resolved that we now go into an election of teachers, which election being held resulted in the election of Profs. C. W. Dicken and Thad A. Gillum as principal teachers; and Prof. J. L. Winn and Miss Annie Kalfus assistant teachers

On motion and second ordered that the meeting of this board now adjourn

C Hotopp Pres



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