

Bits and Pieces

of Hardin County History

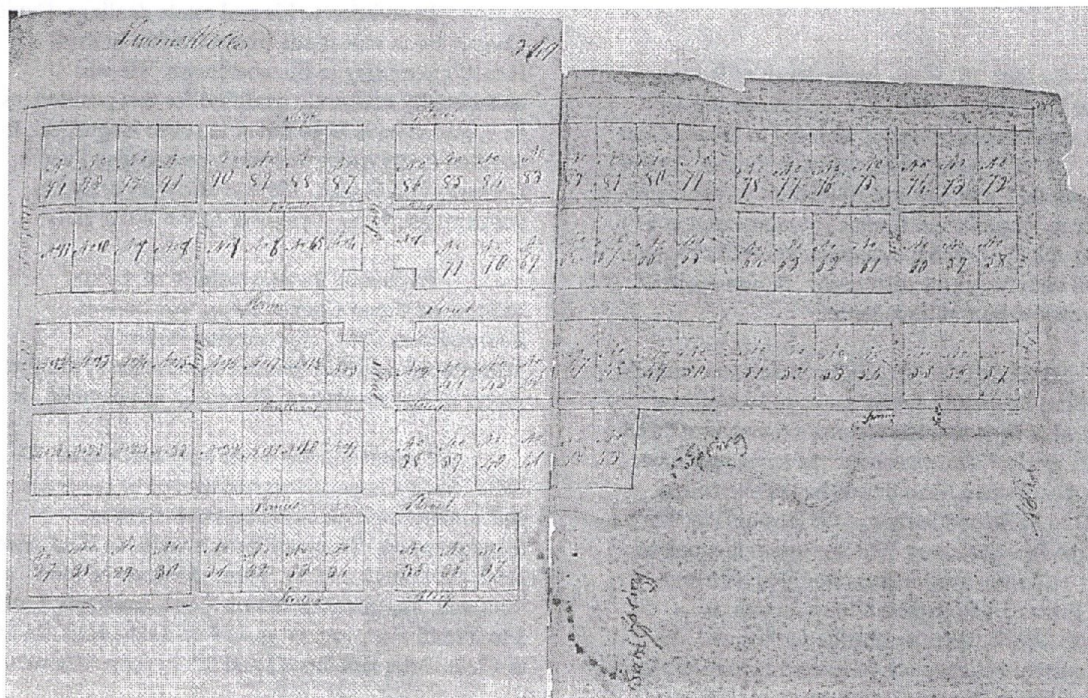
A PUBLICATION OF HARDIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOL XXIII NO. 4

MARY JO JONES, EDITOR

WINTER 2004

SWANSVILLE-- A HARDIN COUNTY COMMUNITY???



(Deed Book G, page 249, Hardin County, Ky.)

PLAT OF SWANSVILLE

A few weeks ago, a gentleman in Holly, Michigan, telephoned me and asked what I knew about Swansville, a town in Hardin County, Kentucky, and its founder, David Cooper Swan. I told him I'd never heard of it, but would look into it and report to him my findings. Little did I dream at that time that my search would take me from Hardin County to Boston and the Boston Tea Party and to Paris with connections to Lafayette and Marie Antoinette.

On Sept. 3, 1817, David C. Swan, a native of Scotland, with his three children, Chloe, Alexander and Julius, and a servant, Rene Meunier (a native of

France), applied to become a citizen of the United States, renouncing all allegiance to the King of Great Britain or any other state. His wife, Antoinette Bernard Swan, was a native of France.

On April 12, 1819, David C. Swan applied to the Hardin County Court for permission to establish a town to be known as Swansville "on Nolin River at the mouth of Sandy." This was approved by the court, and a plat of Swansville was filed. Swan apparently had a contract with one Ann Beall for the purchase of this land, and the deed was finally made transferring the tract to him by Ann Beall Aingell and others on August 15, 1822. *The Kentucky Register*,

an Elizabethtown newspaper, reported on May 20, 1837, that D. C. Swan had had 3,000 acres of land in Hardin County on the waters of Otter, Mill, Cedar and Clear creeks. Why, I wondered, did a man who owned 3,000 acres in the northern part of the county purchase two hundred acres in the southern part of the county on which to establish a town? I kept digging.

Where did David Cooper Swan get 3,000 acres in the northern part of the county? At about the same time he was selling that land to various people in small tracts, why did he purchase a tract for his town? One source stated that Swan controlled four million acres in the western lands. Where did he get it?

On Oct. 28, 1816, James Swan of Boston, Mass., at that time in Paris, France, executed a very lengthy and detailed power of attorney in favor of his brother, David Cooper Swan, which is filed in Hardin County, to deal with any and all matters pertaining to his lands in Virginia and Kentucky enumerated in a schedule attached, which schedule, unfortunately, is not filed with the power of attorney. It was reported to be a total of four million acres.

James and David Cooper Swan were natives of Fifeshire, Scotland. James came to Boston as a boy and went to work. He became a member of "The Sons of Liberty," and was one of the seventeen men, disguised as Indians, who threw the tea overboard from a ship in Boston harbor at the Boston Tea Party. During the Revolutionary War he rose to the rank of colonel. After the war, he was deeply in debt and went to France, with letters of introduction to Lafayette. While there, he acquired a fortune. In 1787, assisted by Lafayette, he gained control of the U. S. war debt to France. It totaled more than two million dollars and consisted of money advanced during the Revolution. James decided to liquidate this debt and paid it out of his own funds.

He returned to Boston and married into money and engaged in land speculation. He purchased a group of islands off the coast of Maine, calling one Swans Island, where he established saw mills. He carried on extensive trade in lumber with France, bringing furniture, tapestries, valuable

paintings, etc., on one return voyage. Legend has it that Marie Antoinette was to board this ship to escape the guillotine, but missed the boat. Pieces of Swan furniture are in various museums in the Boston area, as are portraits of James Swan and his wife by Gilbert Stuart.

James Swan's Revolutionary War service, in addition to payment of the war debt, undoubtedly was the reason for his grant of the very large tracts of land in the western country. He obviously returned to France and turned management of these lands over to his brother, David Cooper Swan by the Power of Attorney executed in 1816.

In addition to his real estate dealings, David Cooper Swan was at one time a teacher in Prof. Hewitt's seminary in Elizabethtown. He was undoubtedly eminently qualified for this position, as he is said to have been fluent in seven languages. In addition to his native Scotland, he had also lived in Germany and France. He was also very active in politics here, being a member of the Whig party.

Euphemia Swan, youngest of the six children of David Cooper Swan, was born at Swansville in 1818. She married Robert L. Wintersmith and thus became the mother of the first mayor of Elizabethtown, Robert L. Wintersmith, Jr.

Swansville was never very successful. By 1838 David Cooper Swan had moved to Louisville, and sold his tract on Nolin to Jacob Eliot of Elizabethtown. Excepted from transfer to Eliot were lands previously sold by Swan: 35 acres to John McEwen, four acres to Joseph Cook, town lots 1 and 3 to Iredell Hart, lots 24 and 29 to Aaron Hart, lot 16 to Clem Gore, and lots 42 and 47 to John McEwen.

What happened to Swansville? Robert Hogan, 79 years old, who has lived in the vicinity all of his life, and Dan Lee, author of *From the Cabin to the Cave* (a history of the Nolin River) never heard of Swansville. We assume that it washed away in one of the many floods along the Nolin, one of the worst of which, according to Lee, occurred in the 1850's.

M. J. J.

(Sources: Public records of Hardin County; Wimp, *Newspaper Abstracts Hardin County, Kentucky 1829 - 1893*; the internet; interviews with Robert Hogan and Dan Lee; obituary of Euphemia Swan Wintersmith.)

COURT SYSTEM CHANGES

KELLY MARK EASTON

The first court established in the newly formed Hardin County in 1793 was called the Quarter Sessions Court. Hardin County's first grand jury did not have a place to meet. They would walk out into the woods near the log house used as the first courthouse to conduct their deliberations. Some of the earliest court accounts make one wonder just exactly what was going on in these woods.

The first indictment was against the newly appointed Sheriff, Isaac Hynes. He was charged with "profane swearing." During this same term of court, Sheriff Hynes provided testimony that one of his neighbors, Jacob Vanmeter, was "retailing spiritous liquors by the smalls," and VanMeter was indicted. It was not illegal to distill liquor and sell it by the barrel. The value of crops was often preserved in this way, but selling alcohol by the drink was another matter. Apparently not thinking much of neighborly disputes, the grand jury decided to indict Sheriff Hynes as well for retailing liquor. The Court decided to make Sheriff Hynes' still house the first jail. Perhaps fearing imminent incarceration, Sheriff Hynes protested the "sufficiency" of the jail, but his objection was overruled.

Eventually cooler heads prevailed. The Court dismissed both of the retailing liquor indictments without a trial, but Sheriff Hynes did have to pay a fine for his profane swearing. Considering these first proceedings of the Quarter Sessions Court of Hardin County, it is little wonder that such courts did not last very long.

Felix Grundy, a young attorney who practiced in Hardin County for about ten years, introduced the bill which abolished the Quarter Sessions Courts and established the Circuit Courts in 1803. The preamble of the bill called the then-existing courts "inconvenient and expensive." A young Lexington attorney, Henry Clay, also favored changing the court system. Clay may have had a more personal motive. Without a hearing, Clay was found in contempt and fined by the Quarter Sessions Court of Fayette County. The judgment against him was reversed. The appellate court ruled that a person may be found in contempt only if the behavior occurred in the presence of the judge or after a hearing has established the contemptuous behavior which occurred outside the presence of the judge. This has remained the law in Kentucky for over 200 years.

Like many of Hardin County's earliest attorneys, Grundy went on to have a distinguished career. An ally of Andrew Jackson and thus an eventual enemy of Henry Clay, Grundy moved to Tennessee in 1807. He later served as a U. S. Congressman, Senator, and Attorney General of the United States.

The Circuit Courts have been in existence, in some form or another, since 1803. Kentucky has seen several constitutions over the years, and we still continue the efforts to change the courts so that they will not be "inconvenient and expensive." Most recently, the family courts have been created, for example. Although today's courts are less than perfect, we have come a long way from the curious activities of the Quarter Sessions Courts.

(Judge Easton has served as a Hardin Circuit Court Judge since 2000.)

(Sources: Records of the Quarter Sessions Court of Hardin County, compiled by Mary Jo Jones; Kentucky Acts 1802 November Session, Chapter XXIII; Clay v. Quarter Sessions Court of Fayette County, 2 Ky. 189 (1802); McClure, *Two Centuries of Elizabethtown and Hardin County, Kentucky*, Hardin County Historical Society, 1979; Virtual American Biographies, Appleton's *Cyclopedia of American Biography* (Felix Grundy), available at virtuaology.com.)

NEW FRUIT

In 1865 the Kentucky State Pomological and Horticultural Society was organized in Elizabethtown. The group planned annual meetings to display fruit, wines, flowers and vegetables and to discuss production and marketing.

In 1866, in addressing the second annual meeting, Samuel Haycraft, Jr., Hardin County historian, farmer and public official, reported that Hardin County fruit growers had bought more than 100,000 trees from out-of-state nurseries during the preceding ten years.

To take advantage of this market, in 1874 Virgil Popham started the Walnut Hill Nursery with just a few acres and a few fruit trees. It was located in western Hardin County and utilized rail facilities at Big Clifty, five miles away.

By about 1890, Popham's business had grown enormously. He had at that time 470 acres devoted to nursery and orchard. His nursery had ready for delivery a large quantity of stock of many varieties.

His orchard consisted of more than 10,000 trees of various kinds. Some of his apple trees were said to produce twenty bushels per tree.

Popham had a distillery to convert into brandy all the fruit he could not dispose of to better advantage. The capacity in season was one barrel per day. After the

fruit season, the distillery was used to make corn whiskey.

Walnut Hill Nursery's success, in addition to Popham's hard work, was at least in part attributable to its location near the railroad. According to *The Elizabethtown News* of May 3, 1889, this nursery was said to be the largest and best in the state. Popham also owned another nursery with 6500 grafted trees in Meade County.

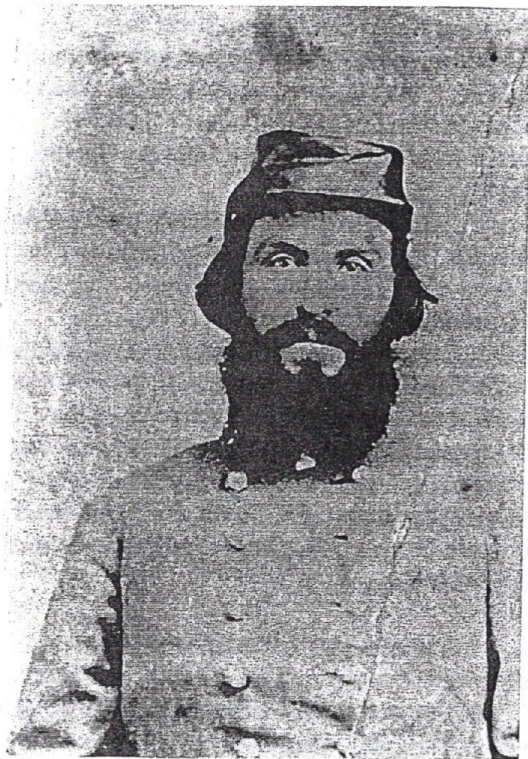
Popham dreamed of a community near his business. He laid off streets and town lots and offered to give a lot to anyone who would agree to build on it. A post office was established at New Fruit, Kentucky, on February 12, 1888, with Popham as postmaster. Mail was received daily by rail and three times a week by road.

The community of New Fruit, as envisioned by Popham, never took hold. But the business was certainly very successful. By 1890, in addition to 30 salesmen on the road, the nursery employed 25 men and ten horses at the site. Many varieties of apples, peaches, plums and pears, cherries, quince, grapes and berries were marketed from the nursery, and large quantities of fruits were shipped from the orchard.

The last time I visited the site, only the brandy pits remained to mark the location of this once thriving business, and even they may not be recognizable today.

M.J.J.

MARTIN HARDIN COFER DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN, SOLDIER, AND JURIST



MARTIN HARDIN COFER
IN CIVIL WAR UNIFORM

Following the Civil War no man figured more conspicuously in the history of Elizabethtown than Martin Hardin Cofer. His parents were Thomas Cofer, who died during the cholera epidemic which raged in Elizabethtown in 1873, and Mary "Polly" Hardin, a daughter of Martin Hardin.

He taught school near Elizabethtown when in his teens, and had a very limited education himself. While he taught, he studied law. Later he went to Illinois, where he lived until 1857, a period of three years. Before he returned to Elizabethtown he was admitted to practice law by the Supreme Court of Illinois. He came back without any means and had a hard

struggle to get established as a lawyer. Before the Civil War broke out, however, he had about the largest practice of any lawyer in Elizabethtown.

He was undoubtedly a man of the most pronounced convictions and never hesitated to express them. This was demonstrated in his race for the Legislature in 1861 when his opponent was Dr. Bryan R. Young, a former Congressman, and one of the wealthiest and most influential men in Hardin County. Cofer advocated the secession of Kentucky from the Union. So brilliant a campaign did he make that he was only defeated by ninety votes, whereas only the year before, a candidate for Congress, in favor of remaining in the Union, had carried the county by 800 votes.

Cofer was the captain of a State Militia company when the war broke out. He and Major Thomas J. Hays, also a Hardin County man, raised a battalion of five companies which joined the Confederate army. Cofer was made lieutenant colonel of the regiment which was known as the Sixth Kentucky Cavalry but was an infantry regiment until 1863.

Cofer was soon made colonel of his regiment. He was a brilliant officer, and was seriously wounded at the battle of Shiloh. Before the battle of Jonesboro he was made Provost Marshal of the Army of Tennessee with the rank of general.

Returning home after the Civil War, he resumed the practice of law and was soon elected circuit judge of the district. He served in this capacity two terms.

It was while he was circuit judge and a candidate for Judge of the Court of Appeals, while holding a session of his court at

Brandenburg, on May 12, 1871, he rendered one of the most important judicial decisions ever promulgated from the bench of Kentucky. He rendered a decision that involved the rights of a very large body of the people of the Commonwealth; and, owing to the state of political sentiment at that time, commanded marked attention and caused widespread comment. The decision was embodied in a charge to the Grand Jury of Meade County, Kentucky, in the case of a white man who was held for indictment under an accusation of maliciously cutting and wounding a black man, with intent to kill. The jury had asked the opinion of the judge as to the competency of some black witnesses, who had been recognized to appear in behalf of the commonwealth and give testimony before the grand jury. He decided that such testimony was competent, upon the ground that this class of people were entitled, in common with their white fellow citizens, to the full and equal protection of the laws, under both State and United States constitutions. The decision invalidated a section of the Revised Statutes of Kentucky, which had been especially enacted to exclude the hearing of testimony of black persons against white persons in the state court

It is a most remarkable fact that a Confederate officer was the first circuit judge to give this legal status to the black persons. In certain quarters Cofer was much criticized for this action, but he was overwhelmingly elected to the Court of Appeals. He was Chief Justice

when he died in 1881. This man, in less than fifty years, with limited education, had served four years in the Confederate army with distinction, had served two terms as circuit judge, and one term as judge of the Court of Appeals.

Judge Cofer built the house now standing at 113 East Poplar Street in Elizabethtown. This house was later occupied by Col. J. W. Hays and later by Judge Weed S. Chelf, both of whom died there. It was the home for many years of the John W. Goodin family.

Cofer married Ellen Bush, and they had one son, Harvey Cofer. Both of them died in Elizabethtown, and are buried by his side in the Elizabethtown City Cemetery. His only brother was Stephen W. Cofer. It is related that while Stephen was deputy sheriff, Judge Cofer noticed the absence of his brother from the courtroom while he was trying a case. On two other occasions on the same day the deputy sheriff was absent, and finally the Judge fined his own brother \$50, although his absence was unavoidable.

Martin Hardin Cofer was a rather striking looking man with grey hair and beard. (The style was to wear beard in those days.) He was nothing of a hand shaker, but was a most forceful speaker. He depended upon his cause to win his election and it generally did.

(Sources: H. A. Sommers, *Elizabethtown & Hardin County, Kentucky, 1869 - 1921*; Lewis Collins, *History of Kentucky, Vol. I; Biographical Encyclopedia of Kentucky.*)

DUES FOR 2005 SHOULD BE PAID NOW. MAIL YOUR CHECK FOR \$10.00 PER PERSON , \$20 PER FAMILY, TO THE SOCIETY AT P. O. BOX 381, ELIZABETHTOWN, KY. 42702, NOW.

HARDIN COUNTY'S FIRST CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

SAMUEL HAYCRAFT, JR.

Jacob, a negro slave, the property of John Crow, killed his master on the 30th day of December, 1795. They were both cutting on the same fallen tree—the negro at the butt end, the master high up. Crow thinking that Jacob was not working with a will, came to inspect Jacob's cut, reproved him for sloth and turned away to resume his chopping; as soon as his back was turned Jacob dealt him a blow in the head with his axe, which killed him outright. Jacob drew his dead master to the side of an old log and covered him with leaves.

He then fled to Vienna at the falls of Green River. As soon as the murder was discovered, Phillip Taylor pursued and took Jacob. When arrested he said to Taylor, "I killed Crow, but you prove it." The prisoner was conveyed in a canoe to the mouth of Rough Creek, and up Rough Creek to Hartford, and from thence was brought under guard to Elizabethtown in the Valley.

On the second day of March, 1796, by consent of the prisoner, he was tried by a called court, composed of Judges Thomas Helm and John Vertrees. On arrangement [*sic*] Jacob pleaded guilty, and he was sentenced to be hung by the neck until he was dead, dead, dead, and the Lord is invoked to have mercy on him, and the sheriff, Samuel Haycraft, was ordered to carry the sentence into execution on the second day of April, 1796, between the hours of twelve and two o'clock.

The court not agreeing on the value of the negro, a jury was impaneled who fixed his value at eighty pounds.

As murder at that day was of rare occurrence and this perhaps the first in the county, it produced quite a sensation, and particularly so, as John Crow was a man of some note and highly esteemed.

The prisoner was confined in the old poplar log jail and there being no jailor, the sheriff with a guard was charged with the custody of Jacob. A few days before the execution, the sheriff being absent, the duty of feeding the prisoner devolved on my mother. On opening the door to hand in his dinner, the prisoner made a desperate dash, upset the old lady and ran for life. The Hon. George Helm, the father of Gov. Helm, being in sight, and being then a stout young man, pursued the prisoner about four hundred yards, crossing Valley creek and ascending a hill, caught and brought him back. He was then kept safely until the day fixed for his execution, the 2nd day of April, 1796.

As is usual to this day, on such occasions, the execution was witnessed by a vast crowd.

The sheriff having a distaste for the hangman's office (by consent of Jacob) procured the services of a black man to tie the noose and drive the cart from under.

The writer was less than a year old, and I suppose was not there but for years afterwards he heard the matter spoken of as an era in time, "The time Jacob was hung."

(Source: Samuel Haycraft, *A History of Elizabethtown, Kentucky and its Surroundings*, pp.36-37.)

ANDREW HYNES "FATHER OF ELIZABETH TOWN"

Andrew Hynes, who might be called the "father of Elizabethtown", because of his laying out of thirty acres of land, to which he held claim, as the town-site of Elizabeth Town, in honor of his wife, Elizabeth Warford Hynes. It was known previous to that as Severns Valley, or simply "the Valley" and then as "Courthouse." In 1793 Hynes laid out the town in blocks and streets, with a Public Square for public buildings. The town was not organized as such until 1797. Hardin County was established by the first session of the Kentucky Legislature in 1792, to become operational the following year. Hynes, by acting in 1793 to lay out a town with space for the public buildings, would thus assure "his" town of becoming the county seat of the newly-established county.

There had been rivalry and controversy with the settlement at Phillips' Fort (later Hodgenville) for the location of the first courthouse. The Valley settlement was able to obtain location of the first courthouse (a log building, erected in 1795), and Hynes, through his preserving space for the public buildings in the new town, effectively held the courthouse location for Hardin County in Elizabethtown. Hodgenville was established about twenty years later and became the county seat of LaRue County when it was formed in 1843.

Hynes probably was a native of Maryland, as he is recorded as a captain in the Sixth Maryland Regiment of Foot (infantry) in the Revolutionary War, one list being dated April 13, 1779. Shortly after that date he was in Severns Valley, one of the earliest pioneers here. Records show that he claimed land based on improvements (a cabin) as early as April of that year. He claimed a great amount of land in future Hardin and adjoining counties.

Hynes, together with Capt. Thomas Helm, Samuel Haycraft, Sr., and Jacob Vanmeter, Sr., would build the Severns Valley forts the following year.

(Source: Files of the Hardin County Historical Society.)

In 1780 Andrew Hynes was one of the men commissioned by the Virginia Assembly as a trustee of the new town of Louisville, which was established that year. He assisted in the surveying of the future metropolis. He was appointed a captain of militia for Jefferson County under command of General George Rogers Clark, accounting for his serving in Clark's Illinois Regiment at some time after the Northwest Campaign.

In 1788 when the town of Bairdstown (Bardstown) was established, he was one of the original trustees. He moved from Severns Valley to Bardstown and remained a resident there until his death in August, 1800. He at one time served as sheriff of Nelson County.

Hynes was a member of a convention which met at Danville in August, 1786, to petition Virginia for the formation of the State of Kentucky. In 1792 he was a member of the convention at Danville which drafted the first constitution for the new state. He served as a senator from Nelson County to the Kentucky Legislature briefly in 1800.

Hynes' fort, and later his residence (a two-story log house) were located near the water plant and large spring on Nicholas Street. On January 18, 1796, he conveyed his property at that site to Armistead Churchill, Sr. It likely was about this time that Hynes and his family moved to Bardstown to make their home. Churchill later sold the property to Ambrose Geoghegan, Sr., and his son, John H. Geoghegan, resided there for many years.

Recorded children of Andrew and Elizabeth Hynes include Sarah, who married Armistead H. Churchill, Sr.; Elizabeth, who married Burr Harrison; Nancy, who married William P. Duval; Mary, Abner and Alfred Hynes—a family of prominence with descendants of prominence.

MOTHER'S STORY

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the fourth installment of the story that my mother, Susan Margaret Settle, who was born in Elizabethtown in 1900 and spent her entire life in this place, wrote of her early life.)

Grandma [Holbert] used Arbuckles coffee, and in each pound sack there was a stick of candy. She kept and carefully divided these out for Charles and each of her grandchildren, giving each his or her portion during the summer visit.

Aunt Cora [Holbert] always came to Bonnieville to spend each summer with her parents, the John Stamps, who lived on a farm. Besides Grace and Belle she always brought Nellie Holbert Waldeck, her niece, from Nashville. Usually Elizabeth and I visited with them for a few days, and Aunt Cora would visit with us and go on to Vertrees. She would travel between Bonnieville and Elizabethtown on the train, often arriving at our house absolutely unannounced, having walked from the depot with the three little girls.

At times Uncle Bob [Holbert] made our house his headquarters, especially when he worked at Dividing Ridge, between Bonnieville and Munfordville, in the Mantle and Kimball commissary, and when he was a Pullman conductor. The only time I remember alcoholic drinks at our house was when he brought beer and put it in our ice box. Mamma always kept a bottle of whiskey for medicinal purposes, but I never saw anyone take a drink from it. As far as I know, my father never took a taste of anything alcoholic or smoked a cigarette, cigar or pipe.

Sometime during the summer a circus would come to town for an afternoon and evening performance, preceded about noon by a parade through the downtown section. I can remember only two locations for the big tents. One was on Athletic Court and the other on South Mulberry near the creek. We always went to see the parade and usually to the afternoon performance.

Another big event of the summer was the Hardin County Fair, the main entrance of which was about at the present intersection of South Maple and Pennsylvania streets. There was a big grandstand with a floral hall, vegetables and fruit, all sorts of canned stuff, handiwork and everything seen at a fair on display. The carnival was between the front entrance and the grandstand. We always rode the merry-go-round but never the ferris wheel.

Many relatives and friends from the Vertrees and Vine Grove sections visited us at Fair time. Mamma always was ready for any who came, with a cooked ham, several cakes and pies and vegetables of every sort. Sometimes we took our noon meal to the Fair and always had enough fried chicken, dressed eggs, ham sandwiches, cake, and pie for anyone Mamma or Dad wanted to include. It was all great fun. There was an oval race track where, besides the horse races, there was a mule race and a balloon ascension. All sorts of livestock was brought in front of the grandstand to be judged. I do not remember any of us ever having an entry of any sort.

The only outdoor games we played were croquet in our front yard and, in my teen years, tennis on a court at the old Hardin Collegiate Institute building where Audubon Court is now. We played hide

and seek often, and fox and hounds when we ran through shoulder high broom sage which covered the section of Park Avenue and College Street. There were only two houses between Miles Street and the bridge over Billys creek. The Elliots, our relatives, lived in the first, and the Colmore Barnes family nearer the creek. We always visited the Elliots often, and they were so nice to us children. We knew them better than any of the others of Mamma's cousins.

For several years after Uncle George [Holbert] became a lawyer and before his marriage, he lived at our house. He had nightmares and would yell loudly, and Mamma would have to go all the way up to his bed to awaken him. Mamma had nightmares too, and many times I heard her screaming to the top of her lungs until Dad would wake her.

Once I had a young pet chicken which I sometimes allowed in the house. One morning Uncle George came downstairs, started through the back hall, and stepped on my little chick. He picked it up, took it out, threw it away, and never said a word.

I was never one to have pets, but Mary Belle was. She had, in addition to a dog, canaries and at one time squirrels in a cage, one of which got out and came down the chimney. Uncle Bob reached up to get it, and it bit him severely. Mamma liked animals and birds, and once in her later years caught a coot which bit her on the hand. Before her marriage Mamma always had a horse and rode side-saddle. Her wedding present from her parents was a horse.

During the summers of my high school days a sort of entertainment called Chautauqua came to town for a week's stand. The big tent was set up on the school ground opposite the Pittman-Harris home at 210 Helm Street. We always had season tickets and never missed a performance.

Dad was absent-minded, or so intent on his business that he sometimes did funny things like wearing his bedroom slippers to town, or walking home when he had the car downtown, or going to his office instead of to the church on Sunday. Anything dumb like this would make him very outdone with himself, and his bad temper always showed up. Mamma was rather easy-going and seldom got mad; however, she had strong likes and dislikes when it came to people.

[EDITOR'S NOTE: I would like to add at this point that Mother has failed to make any mention of the fact that the older of her two younger sisters, Elizabeth, passed away in 1917 at the age of fifteen. The cause of death was typhoid fever.]

(TO BE CONCLUDED)

DUES FOR 2005 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10 PER PERSON ARE NOW DUE. PLEASE MAIL YOUR CHECK TODAY. – THANKS.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our January 24th Meeting will be held at the State Theater Gallery. Back Home Restaurant will cater the meal at a cost of \$7.50. Most of you by now have visited the Gallery on other occasions, and you know that this is a wonderful facility.

Mentioning the State Theater, I want to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Larry Hall for commissioning Teresa Shelton of Vine Grove to paint the outstanding mural depicting West Dixie Avenue in the 1950s. As you probably read in the local newspapers, Dr. Hall did this in memory of his good friend, former Sheriff of Hardin County and U.S. Marshal, Charles Logsdon. More than likely, you have noticed the mural in the front lobby of the gallery when driving by. The night of the meeting you will have a chance to get a close up view and see the characters from Elizabethtown's past that have been placed in the mural.

Our presenter for the January Meeting will be one of our own members, Elvin Smith Jr. Elvin is one of the most knowledgeable persons in the county on the Civil War in Hardin County. You will find his slide presentation on the various Civil War Forts that were located in the county very informative. I want to personally thank Elvin for everything he has done for the Hardin County History Museum. He has worked tirelessly and unselfishly to make the museum a great place to visit.

If you have not been by the Hardin County History Museum lately, you have missed out on a great Veterans Display. Several people put in a great deal of effort and time to put this display together. The museum will be open after the Historical Society Meeting for your viewing pleasure.

I look forward to seeing everyone on January 24th.

Kenneth L. Tabb
President

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING

The Hardin County Historical Society will meet Monday evening, January 24, 2005, at the **STATE THEATER**, 209 W. Dixie Avenue, Elizabethtown. The buffet dinner, catered by **BACK HOME**, will be served at 6:30 P.M. The price is \$7.50 per person.

The program will be presented by Elvin Smith, Jr., one of our own members. His subject will be "Civil War Camps and Forts in Hardin County." Elvin is a retired school teacher, and now spends his every waking hour researching some aspect of the Civil War. He is a recognized expert in this field, and is often called upon as a consultant. His presentation will undoubtedly reveal to you many new facts about the Civil War in this area.

For dinner reservations, please telephone Meranda Caswell at 765-2515 by NOON, Saturday, January 22d. If you find later than that time that you can attend, phone Meranda, as we occasionally have cancellations.

DUES FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2005 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10 PER MEMBER (NOTE INCREASE) ARE NOW DUE AND PAYABLE. PLEASE MAIL YOUR CHECK TO THE ADDRESS BELOW AT YOUR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE. MEMBERSHIP IN THE SOCIETY IS OPEN TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS.

1/1/2005
GARY KEMPF
705 GRANT CIRCLE
ELIZABETHTOWN, KY 42701



HARDIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
POST OFFICE BOX 381
ELIZABETHTOWN, KY. 40202