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# Bits and Pieces

## of Hardin County History

A PUBLICATION OF HARDIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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MARY JO JONES, EDITOR

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### CASINO GAMBLING IN HARDIN COUNTY

The present interest in casino gambling in Kentucky brings to mind that this activity is not new to Hardin County. It flourished in the area near Fort Knox in the years just prior to and during World War II.

In the late 1930's Ed and Blanche Murphy were the proprietors of a very successful enterprise known as the Fort Knox Supper Club. It was an unpretentious one-story frame building located on Highway 31-W (now Wilson Road) a short distance north of the intersection with Highway 144 in what is now the city of Radcliff, which at that time did not exist.

The Fort Knox Supper Club was very successful. It included a bar, a room for dining and dancing, and a gaming room with craps, blackjack and slot machines. It was nominally not open to the general public. Permanent membership cards were issued free of charge to all officers at Fort Knox and to many others. Local law-enforcement officials "looked the other way" because it was presumed to be a private club. There were, of course, rumors of payoffs to various officials.

At the supper club, Mrs. Murphy was in charge of the dining room. The food was excellent; no local restaurant was comparable. Mr. Murphy was bartender and doorman, to insure that only "members" were admitted. (However, I don't recall hearing of anyone ever being turned away.) Mrs. Murphy's brother was in charge of the gaming room.

Financially, the Fort Knox Supper Club was extremely successful. That was due in large part to the fact that it was a family business--the owners did the work. The Murphys continued to operate this business until their retirement after World War II.

Apparently aware of the Murphys' success, Mabel Lex, an Elizabethtown businesswoman, in 1938 bought a tract of land of about four acres on 31-W nearer to Fort Knox. She built a large southern plantation style mansion which she called Club Lex-A-Villa, to seek a share of the night-club business. Despite a few brushes with the law, Mrs. Lex was successful--the food was good, the bar was well stocked, and there were gambling tables and slot machines in the basement. She was a shrewd businesswoman, but she couldn't be chef, maitre d', bartender and croupier, all at the same time.

Apparently patronage exceeded Mrs. Lex's expectations. Only one year after opening, a large one-story annex for dining and dancing was built on the south side of the Club. An advertisement in the June 27, 1939 issue of *The Elizabethtown News* announced a gala opening of the new annex, featuring The Smoke Rings, "Chicago's Exclusive Swing band."

However, her success was relatively short-lived. The property was too convenient to Fort Knox. It was acquired by the federal government during an expansion of the army post in 1942. Mrs. Lex was paid \$25,000 for the property--a fair return on her initial investment.

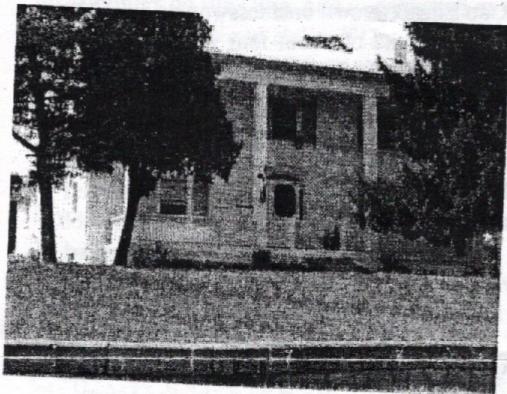
After acquisition by the government, Club Lex-A-Villa became a branch of the Fort Knox Officers' Club. It was operated for a number of years, with food, drink and dancing. Later, the annex was removed and it became the home for a military family; still later the building and grounds were sold as surplus property. The building has been moved to a new location and now stands as a ghostly skeleton, sans its brick exterior, with no hint of its former grandeur.

M. J. J.

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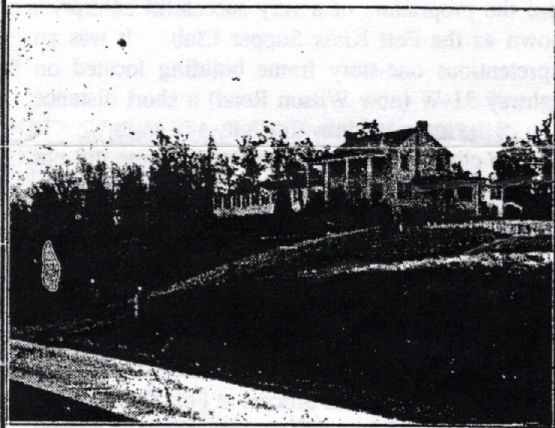
Club Lex-A-Villa, December, 1940 (Computer enhanced view)



Lex-A-Villa as Family Quarters, 1986

# Lex-A-Villa Club

2 MILES SOUTH FORT-KNOX, KY.  
DIXIE HIGHWAY 31-W



## New Year's Eve GALA CELEBRATION

—WITH—

### King Perdue's Band

—AND—

## "Shows From Swanee"

Covert \$3.00 per Couple

# Notice...

All membership and courtesy cards  
having been issued by the

## Fort Knox Supper Club

Incorporated

Are hereby canceled on this date,  
December 3, 1940

Applications for new cards may be submitted  
to the manager.

### E. T. MURPHY

*Hardin County Enterprise, December 1940*

*Hardin County Enterprise, December 26, 1940*

## ELIZABETHTOWN ALMOST HAD A CARNEGIE LIBRARY

Elizabethtown, Kentucky, was a thriving community in the early part of the twentieth century. Optimistic estimates placed the population of the town and its surroundings at three thousand. In the summer of 1904, Carrie Nation had visited Elizabethtown in her crusade against the evils of liquor. While in town, she visited a local saloon and was attacked by the proprietor in a violent manner. This so incensed the townspeople that a local option election was called to outlaw the sale of intoxicants. The election was held in October of that year, and the men of the community voted by a rather substantial margin to continue the status quo. (Women had not yet been given the right to vote.)

H. A. Sommers, editor and publisher of *The Elizabethtown News*, in the early months of 1905, initiated a campaign to secure a Carnegie library for Elizabethtown. Sommers, who acquired the newspaper in 1882 and directed its operation until his death in 1937, was a crusader for any cause which he felt would be for the betterment of his community. He was especially interested in prohibition, good roads, the Democratic party, and the Presbyterian church.

On February 4, 1905, Sommers wrote Andrew Carnegie as follows:

*I am very anxious to have a public library and free reading rooms in our little city, realizing that it will be very helpful, both from a moral and intellectual standpoint.*

*I have through my paper been able to work up a very healthy sentiment on this subject. The City Council is unanimously in favor of appropriating sufficient money annually to sustain and support such an institution, which it has the legal right to do under a special act of the Legislature. One of the most desirable lots in the center of the city can be had to erect a library building on.*

*The city I am satisfied will buy this lot for such an enterprise and I will undertake to buy the books &c or with local assistance to do it.*

*I write to ask you if you will help us and if so upon what conditions.*

*Elizabethtown has a population of about 3,000. It is the County Seat of Hardin county and is located on two railroads forty miles south of Louisville. It was in this county that Abraham Lincoln was born and his father Thomas Lincoln lived for many years in this city. In honor of the great war President I thought it would be a fine thing to couple your name with his in connection with the Library and call it the Andrew Carnegie's Lincoln Library.*

Four days later, on February 6, 1905, Sommers, apparently having had an immediate response from Carnegie's office, returned the form sent to him, together with additional remarks:

*... The citizens will obligate themselves to buy such a library as Mr. Carnegie may require if he will give the cost of a suitable building. We will put this obligation in such a form, as an endorsement from our two banks can be secured to it.*

*The fine lot located in the heart of the city will cost from \$1,500 to \$2,000. This the city will buy if Mr. Carnegie will agree to erect a suitable library building upon it.*

*The city will complete paying its bonded waterworks debt this year and under its charter will have ample funds to sustain in the right way the library. The city now has on hands a surplus from the present tax rate after retiring several thousand of the water works bonds.*

*The library is badly needed to offset the evil influence of the saloon which is the only place where the boys and young men can go after night. We have five saloons and they are made very attractive for the young.*

*If Mr. Carnegie will give us enough to build a nice library and will specify all of the conditions upon which the gift will be granted I will see that they are complied with in a satisfactory manner.*

Sommers, a childless widower, wielded considerable influence in the community, both personally and through his newspaper, as evidenced by his apparent control of the City Council and the two local banks. James Bertram, secretary to Mr. Carnegie, wrote Sommers that a grant of \$7,000 for building the library would be forthcoming, provided the city agreed to purchase the lot. All appeared to go well, as the Council agreed on May 1, 1905 to purchase a centrally located lot on South Mulberry Street from the Methodist and Baptist churches. The site committee, composed of Sommers, R. B. Park, R. L. Wintersmith and Dr. Frank Strickler, had done its job.

Throughout the spring Sommers kept a barrage of optimistic news stories before his readers and the public. On March 3, *The News* stated: "Many places have tried to get Mr. Carnegie to build them libraries and have failed and while we have not an absolute assurance that he will build one in Elizabethtown the statement from his secretary is almost equivalent to that." The April 7<sup>th</sup> issue of Sommers' paper carried an account of why Carnegie gives away millions, and the benefactor "who has recently given \$7,000 to Elizabethtown to build a free public library."

However, according to *The News* of May 5, 1905, reporting the decision to purchase the former church property, some dissension became apparent. As the weeks went on and no action was taken to take title to the lot, T. S. Gardner, owner of the property, filed suit against the city to enforce its agreement to purchase. The legal point involved was whether the City Council could take title to the property, or whether this must be done by five directors appointed by the Mayor.

Later in the summer, Judge Chelf of the Hardin Circuit Court rendered the opinion that the city council had "no right to purchase a library site." Upon hearing the decision, the City Council then voted that the mayor appoint a statutory committee of five to select and purchase a site. Sommers' paper carried an editorial which concluded: "It seems now highly probable that Elizabethtown will have a public library." But the property was not bought.

The election in the fall of 1905 brought changes in the city council, and R. B. Park, a mule dealer, became mayor. His inaugural address stressed his implementation of Sunday blue laws for saloons and drug stores, tax rate reduction, industrial expansion, extensions of city boundaries, "pavements throughout the town," and "improved sanitary conditions." No mention was made of a library, although the council favored a new city hall and favored one of the locations previously considered for Carnegie's building.

Sommers probably could see the changing of public opinion, but he did not give up easily. He continued to lobby about town for improvements and development, including a library.

On January 30, 1906, *The News* published a long letter from Swan Wintersmith of Louisville, the older brother of the former popular mayor, propounding all the familiar arguments in support of the library--civic, economic, educational, practical--designed to rally public support. His letter concluded:

*... If the good people of Elizabethtown would just think, they would be amazed at the vast benefits that would accrue to them from this library. There is nothing under the sun but what one could get information of through this library. Everything that creeps, crawls, walks,*

*flies or swims would be referred to in this library. If a man wanted to build a house, make a road, put up a bridge, till the soil, manufacture any article, plant a tree, butcher an ox or fatten a hog, he could find the desired information here.*

*If the grown people would only realize how much this library would gladden the hearts of children, they could not hesitate to favor its being built. Children would go to it in swarms. On any question, subject or proposition they would find great help here.*

*Discussions, debates, historical or biblical research would make older people attend the library. Were this library built the fond mother would say, "Where is my boy tonight?" and the response should be, "He is at the library," she could thank God that he is where no harm would come to him.*

All this effort was to no avail. The City Council voted the library proposition down in early February, 1906. A motion to reconsider the matter in special session, along with other issues, such as the fixing of the city tax rate and the investigation of the salary of the deputy marshal passed. However, at the next meeting only the tax rate was set and no mention was ever again made of the library.

The city proceeded with the construction of a new city hall. Some citizens suggested that book cases for a library might be placed in its corridors, but the mayor protested the high cost of such an arrangement, saying, "The town needs sewerage, street repairing and other things worse at the present time."

The Womans Club, organized in 1905, was destined to become a major influence in the social and cultural life of the town. By 1915, it had accumulated a meager collection of books and was the only library in town open to the public. The Club tried once more in that year to prevail upon the city council to support a request for \$1,500 for a Carnegie building, but that body refused to hear their plea. Not until 1958 did a library referendum pass, and then by only nine votes in a simple majority. The history of the public library in Hardin County since that time is well known.

M. J. J.

(Sources: Files of *The Elizabethtown News*, 1904, 1905, 1906; Paper, nd, Prof. Donald G. Davis, Jr., Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Texas at Austin.)

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**HARDIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY DUES ARE NOW PAYABLE. FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR (JANUARY - DECEMBER) THE AMOUNT IS \$8.00 PER MEMBER. IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID YOUR DUES FOR THE YEAR 2000, PLEASE MAIL YOUR CHECK TO THE SOCIETY AT P. O. BOX 381, ELIZABETHTOWN, KY. 42702.**

# AN INTIMATE SKETCH OF WILLIAM WILSON

## *Striking and Unique Characteristics of Noted Elizabethtown Lawyer Portrayed by Judge J. P. Hobson*

William Wilson was born in Nelson county, on April 1, 1824, and was the son of Turner Wilson, prominent citizen of that county. His early education was meager and in early life he served an apprenticeship at the plasterer's trade, but after reaching manhood he began the study of law and practiced at Shepherdsville, in Bullitt county, until about the beginning of the Civil War, when he removed to Elizabethtown and practiced law there until his death in August, 1891. He had grown up at Bardstown in the atmosphere of Ben Hardin and in many respects he resembled that great advocate. He was not a great student of the law books but there was one book that he studied constantly; no man knew it better than he, the book of human nature. To his profound knowledge of the human heart added great common sense and the zeal that made his client's case always his own. He was in fact a much more thorough lawyer than he designedly often appeared to those who did not know him well.

He did not like the drudgery of office work or the dry details of practice; he did not read many books but he was an illustration of the adage, "Beware of the man with one book." He knew Blackstone's Commentaries perfectly--he had mastered thoroughly Chitty on Pleadings and Chitty on Contracts. He understood well the intricate rules of law governing land litigation in Kentucky and no one understood better the rules of evidence or the principles of criminal law. He disliked chancery practice but was always before a jury. For many years he was employed in practically every important jury trial in the county in which he lived or in adjoining counties where he practiced.

His power in a jury trial may be illustrated by the case of *Jacobs vs. L. & N. Railroad Co.*, 10 Bush 263. Jacobs was a farmer living in the western part of Hardin county, a man in moderate circumstances and of small earning capacity. As he was going home from Elizabethtown a passenger train on the L. & N. Railroad at a crossing about a mile south of Elizabethtown struck the wagon in

which he was driving and he was killed. Mr. Wilson brought a suit against the railroad company to recover for his death; he had had several other cases in Hardin county against the railroad company in which recoveries had been had and the railroad company under the statute obtained a change of venue to Larue county on the ground of local prejudice and undue influence. When the case was tried in Larue, the court instructed the jury that they might allow punitive damage if the neglect was willful. The jury returned a verdict in favor of the plaintiff for \$150,000, the largest verdict, it is believed, ever rendered in Kentucky in such a case. The verdict was obtained largely by the power with which Mr. Wilson impressed upon the jury the point that punishment in money should be measured by the ability of the defendant to pay. His speech portraying the wealth of the railroad company and the mode of life of its officials made the jury forget that a dollar in the hand of any litigant is still a dollar.

Like Ben Hardin he had the power of trenchant sarcasm. His was not a Damascus sword but a kitchen knife or perhaps better a cleaver. He always struck the weakest point in the armor of his adversary and left behind an ugly wound. His forte was his power of handling facts; he took few notes during trial and yet in summing up a case which had been on trial for several days, he could repeat to the jury practically in the words of each witness what he had said on the leading points in the case. He was essentially a home man; he disliked to go from home to attend to law suits. He never held office and was never a candidate; he had no desire to hold office; he said that an office holder was under obligation to every one-gallus fellow in the district, and he was a free man.

He was liberal in helping others and did no kindness on the house top; but followed literally the injunction, "Let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth." He said he wished to give what he had for people in his life time and see their eyes shine, not leave them a legacy to be received after he was dead. He always declined to prosecute; though he defended

many persons charged with crime. No fee could enduce him to take the other side.

It is interesting to contrast Mr. Wilson with Judge Martin H. Cofer. They were so unlike in many particulars and each in his own way was eminently successful. Judge Cofer loved the science of the law, a legal trial to him was a contest in which some legal principle prevailed. Mr. Wilson on the other hand looked upon a legal trial from the human side and his greatest skill was in unraveling the twisted chain of testimony and developing what was apparently the truth from the circumstances established. Judge Cofer loved his office and his books; he was always courteous to his adversary, kind and dignified--on the other hand Mr. Wilson stayed in his office as little as possible, he was interested in folks rather than books. He had great power of ridicule and he spared nothing that stood in his way. Both were men of high character, both despised everything little or unclean. Both despite early disadvantages by sheer force of ability, character and industry, rose to the very front of the bar.

Time changes, litigation changes; but the principles of law are ever the same; and though men

may come and men may go, the heart throbs of humanity are ever the same. These two men, different as they were, illustrate the truth that a man who it is known can do one thing better than any one else in his community, is always in demand when that thing is to be done. With the multiplication of books and the tendency now of the bar to develop mere case lawyers, the old order of lawyers like Mr. Wilson is more seldom seen; but "as long as the heart has passions, as long as life has woes," the lawyer who knows mankind better than any of his fellows will always be in demand in that smelting pot of the blind goddess we revere--a jury trial.

(From *The Elizabethtown News*, July 14, 1916. Judge J. P. Hobson, a native of Virginia, studied law in Elizabethtown while teaching at nearby Lynndale College. He practiced his profession here until his election as a Judge of the Court of Appeals of Kentucky, of which he served for a time as Chief Justice. His article about Judge Martin Hardin Cofer appeared in *Bits and Pieces*, Vol. XVIII, No. 1, Winter 1999.)

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## ALL NIGHT TELEPHONE SERVICE

(*The Elizabethtown News*, Oct. 30, 1899)

The Ohio Valley Telephone Company will, from date, give to the subscribers to its Exchange at Elizabethtown a continuous day, night and Sunday service. This will make telephones in residences especially valuable and will also make telephones worth something to physicians.

It will be the policy of the company to extend and increase the service as rapidly as possible until all the points in the county are embraced in one comprehensive exchange system with Elizabethtown as a center. It will be our desire to have all points connected with the system in the county operated as subscribers to the Elizabethtown Exchange.

Parties in the country interested in first class telephone service are especially invited to call upon us when in Elizabethtown, or write to the general offices of the Company at Louisville.

BUFORD KENNEDY, Local Manager

## THE PASSING OF THE LIVERY STABLE

(The Elizabethtown News, Feb. 27, 1923)

With the almost universal use of the automobile the garage has succeeded the livery stable and the latter is one of the institutions of a century or more which has passed out of existence.

The livery stable in its day was quite an institution and every country town had one or more of them. Horses and vehicles for hire was the principal business of the livery stable. It was here that the young man on Sunday hired his horse and buggy to take his best girl for a ride. There was a fancy lap cover in the buggy and often a blue ribbon tied on a whip. The buggy was just wide enough for two, and emergencies occasionally presented themselves when the young lady did the driving. It was also the place for the drummer [traveling salesman] to hire his team and with his trunk strapped on behind his vehicle make his territory in the towns off the railroad.

The old time livery stable was the place where all the horse traders and mule buyers gathered and sitting around the door plied their occupation. There was many a David Harum among them and when not busy with a swap they were always busy joking one another or telling stories. The unmistakable odor which belonged to the livery stable got to be rather welcome to the olfactories of the regular visitants. The local politician also found a good place to meet his farmer friends who put up there and had their horses fed and cared for while in town.

The livery stable was a great institution in its day and everybody seemed to think it was all right

except the livery horses which were driven almost to death, because they were hired and did not belong to the man who drove them. It was one trip right after another for the equine and his life at best was of short duration unless his owner swapped him off to a farmer, where pulling a plow was play time compared with pulling a buggy at his best speed.

The livery stable passed away because the horse could not keep up with the automobile or go as fast. The taxicab has taken the place of the livery horse and the garage has taken the place of the livery stable. Twenty miles in a day was good work for the livery horse, but a hundred and sometimes a hundred and fifty is easily covered by an automobile in the same time. The driver at times, especially on hot days, may have had sympathy for his horse and pulled him up in the shade of a tree to rest to keep him from having the thumps, but an automobile does not need any rest under the shade of trees and never has the thumps. It will go as long as it is kept in good order and fed the required amount of gasoline.

We miss the old time livery stable and the old livery horses, but they have passed and gone forever, to give place to the smell of gasoline and a faster way of travel to keep pace with the exceedingly fast age we live in.

The step from the livery stable to the garage may be superseded in time by the airplane when drivers will hitch their airship to a star, figuratively speaking, and people will soar through the clouds like eagles.

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HARDIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOOKS FOR SALE  
ELIZABETH TOWN, KY  
OFFICE OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE STATE OF KY  
HARDIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOOKS FOR SALE

## THE ELIZABETHTOWN POST OFFICE APPOINTMENT BY PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN

By R. Gerald McMurtry

Shortly before Lincoln's election in 1860, Samuel Haycraft, Jr., wrote the future president elect, asking him to use his influence in securing the position of postmaster of Elizabethtown for D. C. S. Wintersmith.

Mr. Haycraft, only seven days after the national election, received the following letter from Abraham Lincoln:

Springfield, Ill.  
Nov. 13, 1860

Hon. Samuel Haycraft,  
Elizabethtown, Ky.

My Dear Sir:

*Yours of the 19<sup>th</sup> is just received. I can only answer briefly. Rest assured fully that the good people of the south, who will put themselves in the same temper and mood towards me which you do, will find no cause to complain of me.*

*While I cannot, as yet, make any committal as to offices, I sincerely hope I may find it in my power to oblige the friends of Mr. Wintersmith.*

Yours very truly,

A. LINCOLN

R. L. Wintersmith, Sr., the father of Swan Wintersmith, voted for Lincoln in 1860 for the presidency, and he was the only man living in Elizabethtown to cast his vote for the former Kentuckian. Hardin County, which was the first home of Lincoln's parents, and the locality in which many of his relatives still lived, gave him six votes out of a total of 2,091 votes cast.

Immediately after Lincoln's inauguration R. L. Wintersmith, Sr., went to Washington and called upon the President, and while there secured the appointment of his son to the office of postmaster.

Mr. Wintersmith held the office until the election of Grover Cleveland, when Mrs. Emilie Helm, the widow of Gen. Ben Hardin Helm and a half sister of Mrs. Abraham Lincoln, was appointed.

(Source: *Hardin County Enterprise*, about 1937)

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## HARDIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOOKS FOR SALE

<i>A DOCTOR OF THE 1870'S AND 80's</i> , by William Allen Pusey, 1932	\$20.00
<i>A HISTORY OF ELIZABETHTOWN, KENTUCKY</i> , by Samuel Haycraft, 1869; reprint 1975	24.00
<i>A PICTORIAL HISTORY OF ELIZABETHTOWN &amp; HARDIN COUNTY</i> , by Guy Winstead, 1989	30.00
<i>A SERIES OF MONOGRAPHS CONCERNING THE LINCOLNS AND HARDIN COUNTY, KENTUCKY</i> , by R. Gerald McMurtry, 1938; 2d printing 1999	18.00
<i>BARNEY, FORGOTTEN HERO--The Story of Commodore Joshua Barney and his Connection with Elizabethtown, Kentucky</i> , by George K. Holbert, 1943; reprint 1998	3.00
<i>BEN HARDIN HELM</i> , by R. Gerald McMurtry, 1943; 2d printing 1999	18.00
<i>CHRONICLES OF HARDIN COUNTY, 1766-1974</i> , compiled by Mrs. T. D. Winstead, 1974	10.00
<i>DIAMONDS, RUBIES AND SAND--The Story of Philip Arnold of the Great Diamond Fraud and his Connection with Elizabethtown, Kentucky</i> , by Margaret S. Richerson & Mary Jo Jones	6.00
<i>ELIZABETHTOWN, KENTUCKY 1770-1879</i> , BY R. Gerald McMurtry, 1938; reprint 1959	3.00
<i>FACTS ABOUT ELIZABETHTOWN AND HARDIN COUNTY, 1923</i> , compiled by Leroy Martin, 1923; reprint 1987	5.00
<i>GEORGE ARMSTRONG CUSTER IN ELIZABETHTOWN, 1871-1873</i> , by Mary Jo Jones, 1998	3.00
<i>GLIMPSES OF ELIZABETHTOWN'S PAST</i> , Hardin County Historical Society, 1998	3.00
<i>HARDIN COUNTY AND HER PART IN WORLD WAR II</i> by W. M. Boling, 1948	2.00
<i>HARDIN HERITAGE--THE HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE OF HARDIN COUNTY, KENTUCKY</i> , Hardin County Planning and Development Commission, 1986	10.00
<i>HISTORIC HARDIN COUNTY, KENTUCKY, COLORING BOOK</i> , Artist Barbara Gaffney, 1991	1.00
<i>JAMES BUCHANAN IN KENTUCKY, 1813</i> , by R. Gerald McMurtry, 1934; reprint 1998	3.00
<i>NOSTALGIA--THE OLDE BETHLEHEM ACADEMY</i> , by Edith Ray, 1983	25.00
<i>SARAH BUSH LINCOLN</i> , Elizabethtown Woman's Club, 1922	1.00
<i>SEPTEMBER 1900 SUPPLEMENT TO THE ELIZABETHTOWN NEWS</i> , Reprint 1999; Packaged with <i>HARDIN COUNTY COLORING BOOK</i> and <i>ELIZABETHTOWN 1779-1879</i>	10.00
<i>THE CARRIE NATION - J. R. NEIGHBORS INCIDENT</i> , by Mary Josephine Jones, 1998	3.00
<i>THE CIVIL WAR IN HARDIN COUNTY, KENTUCKY</i> , by Mary Josephine Jones, 1995; revised 1999	10.00
<i>THE KENTUCKY LINCOLNS ON MILL CREEK</i> , by R. Gerald McMurtry, 1937; reprint 1999	18.00
<i>THE LINCOLN MIGRATION FROM KENTUCKY TO INDIANA, 1816</i> , by R. Gerald McMurtry, 1937; reprint 1999	5.00
<i>THE LINCOLNS IN ELIZABETHTOWN, KENTUCKY</i> , by R. Gerald McMurtry, 1932	3.00
<i>TWO CENTURIES IN ELIZABETHTOWN AND HARDIN COUNTY, 1776 - 1976</i> , by Daniel E. McClure, Jr., 1979; reprint 1999	65.00
<i>WHO WAS WHO IN HARDIN COUNTY</i> , Hardin County Historical Society, 1946; reprint 1980	15.00

(THESE PRICES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2000)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to a New Year of membership in the Hardin County Historical Society. I hope you will find this year interesting and worthwhile. I am very optimistic about our society as we enter 2000.

The January meeting will be an important one for the society. There are several issues that we will be addressing. The first of these is to finalize the revision of the constitution. Next will be the election of officers. The nominating committee will present a slate of officers for consideration. Candidates may also be nominated from the floor with the prior consent of the nominee. A list of members of standing committees will be distributed. Effort has been made to assign members to committees in which they indicate an interest.

I would like to express my appreciation to the following for their significant donations: Mrs. Lee Whalan has donated a number of prints of Bethlehem Academy by Roy Minagawa and books by Edith Ray, *Nostalgia - The Olde Bethlehem Academy*. Jim and Mary Jo Jones and Nancy Collier have made donations to the Society's museum fund. I encourage others to consider similar contributions. Such donations are fully deductible, as the Society is a qualifying 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization.

The "surprise publication" announced at our December 1st meeting was a reprint of a September 1900 bulletin which describes Hardin County at that time. It includes a discussion of schools, churches, professional men, county officials, and the towns of Nolin, Vine Grove, West Point and Cecilia, as well as Elizabethtown. It contains many pictures of men, as well as scenes about Elizabethtown and Vine Grove. This bulletin is packaged with two other publications and sells for \$10.

During the past year the Society has reprinted several books, and book sales have risen dramatically. At the Elizabethtown Millennium Gala on New Year's Eve we sold or took orders amounting to more than \$500. Being able to meet and talk about the history of Hardin County with interested people made it a pleasant evening. A notable reason for the boost in book sales has been the support and permission given by the family of the late R. Gerald McMurtry to reprint his books about Hardin County. We are now working with Lottie Robinson and her family who have given us permission to reprint *The Bond-Washington Story*. We are very grateful to these families for their generosity and support toward our goals.

Thanks to Charlie Skees for developing our web site. I hope you will visit it at [zonemax.com/hchs](http://zonemax.com/hchs). My e-mail address is now [hglee@prodigy.net](mailto:hglee@prodigy.net).

Welcome to each of the 30-plus new members who have joined the society since our last meeting. I look forward to a productive year.

HARRY G. LEE

## TO PURCHASE BOOKS

The books listed on the preceding page may be purchased by calling Barbara Lee at 270-765-5264 or by e-mail at [hglee@prodigy.net](mailto:hglee@prodigy.net).

Send mail orders to the Society at P. O. Box 381, Elizabethtown. Shipping charges are \$4.00 per order except for *Two Centuries in Hardin County* by McClure, for which the charge is \$7.00.

Kentucky residents add 6% sales tax.

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMING ACTIVITIES

The Hardin County Historical Society will meet Monday, January 24, 2000, at the Brown-Pusey House, 128 N. Main St., Elizabethtown. Dinner will be served at 6:30 PM, followed by the program and business meeting at 7:30 PM. This will be an important business meeting following the program, as revision of the constitution and election of officers will be taken up. If you do not wish to come for dinner, you are welcome to come later.

Dinner will be catered by the Stone Hearth Restaurant.

MENU: Roast Pork, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Seasoned Green Beans, Five-cup Salad, Rolls, Butter, Tea, Coffee; Light Dessert. Price \$6.25.

Richard Briggs of West Point will be the speaker on the subject *Two Hundred Years of Travel on the Ohio River*. Briggs is the retired Postmaster at West Point and has lived all his life on the Ohio River. He spends his summers on the Ohio, and is described as the "river lore-an" (one knowledgeable of river lore) on the excursion boats *River Queen* and *Belle of Cincinnati*. He will cover the subjects of steamboating, as well as the unusual customs and life styles of those who made their livelihood on the river. According to Briggs, the river and its people have played a major role in this state and county, as Hardin County has more rivers (five) along and within its boundaries than any other county in the state.

Call Mary Jo Jones (765-5593) by NOT LATER THAN FRIDAY, JANUARY 21, for dinner reservations. If you make a reservation and do not attend, you are expected to pay for the meal.

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**IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID YOUR DUES FOR 2000, PLEASE MAIL YOUR CHECK FOR \$8.00 TO THE ADDRESS BELOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

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HARDIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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