

Red Men Origin Found Locally

By Susan McCrobie, Hardin County History Museum Promotions Chair

An old newspaper clipping recently brought into the Hardin County History Museum has uncovered a clue to the social life of some local businessmen who practiced the principals of the order of Redmanship at the turn of the 20th century.

When contacted about the article, David Lintz, Director of the Red Men Museum and Library located in Texas, said "Kentucky Red Men had a rocky history." He explained that there was explosive growth in the organization, but it dwindled just as quickly, much of it due to the flu and WWI.

Who are the Red Men? They are American's oldest fraternal organization chartered by Congress. The fraternity traces its origins back to 1765 and is descended from the Sons of Liberty. Original members of the group concealed their identities dressed in the garb of Mohawk Indians and made history as they emptied the contents of three hundred and forty-two chests of tea off British ships into the Boston Harbor off Griffin's Wharf on December 16, 1773.

Early members of the Red Man Society helped establish freedom and liberty in the Colonies. They patterned their organization after the great Iroquois Confederacy and its democratic governing body. Their system with elected representatives to govern tribal councils, had been in existence for several centuries.

The first Great Council of Kentucky was instituted at Newport on the 9th sleep of sturgeon moon, G.S. 5614 (August 9, 1854) and lasted until 1888. They surrendered their charter and the two remaining tribes went under the jurisdiction of the Great Council of Ohio.

According to Lintz, the state's Great Council was rechartered in December 1895 and lasted until 1999, when they went under the jurisdiction of the Great Council of Indiana.

As reported in the official records at the Red Man Museum and Library, the Kill Buck Tribe No. 172 was instituted in Elizabethtown on December 15, 1906. E.B. Scott may have been the first Chief of Records.

In 1908, records show that they met at the M.W.A. Hall [Modern Woodman Association Hall located in the old Methodist church building-facing South Mulberry Street just behind Elizabethtown City Hall] and J.W. Vardeman was the Chief of Records.

In 1909, J.E. Drury is listed as the Chief of Records.

During 1910, they are listed as meeting in Red Men's Hall;

This newspaper clipping, First Snap of Killbuck Tribe No. 172, and a strong order for the good of the order. Also charter member and Assistant Chief Laymaker of Killbuck Loft No. 72 1/2. Keeps in mind all the good thing of Redmanship and practices and principles of the order. He is also manager of the Hardin County Telephone and Telegraph Company at Elizabethtown, with a pencil notation E-Town News April 4, 1889, was part of a valuable collection of Hardin County historical artifact recently brought into the Hardin County History Museum by Don Jeffries of Louisville, Kentucky. Jeffries is the son of David Newton Jeffries, the man in the newspaper clipping and one time resident of the county. David Newton Jeffries, was the youngest son of Anderson Jeffries and his wife, Louisa Perry Jeffries. David's brothers, William and Frank also lived in the county for a period of time before moving westward.

*Clipping courtesy
of Don Jeffries*



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however no address is given.

In 1913, membership was 46 and E.D. Durham [Edward D. Durham owner of Durham Bottling Company] was the Chief of Records.

Kill Buck Tribe No. 172 went defunct by the end of 1916.

Past Sachems (presidents) listed in the 1913 state proceedings include: (1906) Thomas L. Emmetsberger, (1907) R.L. Brown, (1908) Evan B. Scott, (1909) E. D. Durham, (1910) G.E. Shiveley [Elizabethtown Fire Chief], (1911) J.E. Drury, (1912) C.J. Richerson [Newspaper Publisher], (1913) A.L. Perry, (1914) W.A. Barry [owner of Globe Publishing Company and Elizabethtown Police Judge], (1915) J.M. Jameson, and (1916) James. B. Brown.

Lintz says while the lodge of Red Men during the Elizabethtown era apparently began as a working-class drinking society similar to the Odd Fellows of the time, it also was a patriotic organization thus the directives of Freedom, Friendship and Charity that is found existing in today's councils.

NOTE: There are some spelling errors noted in both the newspaper clipping and official record. They have not been corrected in this article.

Full Moon Names AND Meanings

The Red Man Society in keeping with the customs of the Native Americans announce their monthly meetings by using Full Moon names and preserved accounts in the official record using the same unique name when noting council fires kindled. Dates were computed using the Jewish method as the great sun of the world, until changed in 1865 to the Columbus' discovery of America, the great sun of discovery.

Northern and eastern United States tribes kept track of the seasons by giving distinctive names to each recurring full Moon. Their names were applied to the entire month in which each occurred. There was some variation in the Moon names, but in general, the same ones were current throughout the Algonquin tribes from New England to Lake Superior. Since the lunar month is only 29 days long on the average, the full Moon dates shift from year to year.

Here is the Farmers Almanac's list of the full Moon names.

- **Full Wolf Moon - January.** Amid the cold and deep snows of midwinter, the wolf packs howled hungrily outside Indian villages. Thus, the name for January's full Moon. Sometimes it was also referred to as the Old Moon, or the Moon After Yule. Some called it the Full Snow Moon, but most tribes applied that name to the next Moon.
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- **Full Worm - March.** As the temperature begins to warm and the ground begins to thaw, earthworm casts appear, heralding the return of the robins. The more northern tribes knew this Moon as the Full Crow Moon, when the cawing of crows signaled the end of winter; or the Full Crust Moon, because the snow cover becomes crusted from thawing by day and freezing at night. The Full Sap Moon, marking the time of tapping maple trees, is another variation. To the settlers, it was also known as the Lenten Moon, and was considered to be the last full Moon of winter.
- **Full Pink Moon - April.** This name came from the herb moss pink, or wild ground phlox, which is one of the earliest widespread flowers of the spring. Other names for this month's celestial body include the Full Sprouting Grass Moon, the Egg Moon, and among coastal tribes the Full Fish Moon, because this was the time that the shad swam upstream to spawn.
- **Full Flower Moon - May.** In most areas, flowers are abundant everywhere during this time. Thus, the name of this Moon. Other names include the Full Corn Planting Moon, or the Milk Moon.

- **Full Strawberry Moon - June.** This name was universal every Algonquin tribe. However, in Europe they called it the Rose Moon. Also because the relatively short season for harvesting strawberries comes each year during the month of June . . . so the full Moon that occurs during that month was christened for the strawberry!

- **The Full Buck Moon - July.** This is normally the month when the new antlers of buck deer push out of their foreheads in coatings of velvety fur. It was also often called the Full Thunder Moon, for the reason that thunderstorms are most frequent during this time. Another name for this month's Moon was the Full Hay Moon.

- **Full Sturgeon Moon - August.** The fishing tribes are given credit for the naming of this Moon, since sturgeon, a large fish of the Great Lakes and other major bodies of water, were most readily caught during this month. A few tribes knew it as the Full Red Moon because, as the Moon rises, it appears reddish through any sultry haze. It was also called the Green Corn Moon or Grain Moon.

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- **The Full Cold Moon; or the Full Long Nights Moon - December.** During this month the winter cold fastens its grip, and nights are at their longest and darkest. It is also sometimes called the Moon before Yule. The term Long Night Moon is a doubly appropriate name because the midwinter night is indeed long, and because the Moon is above the horizon for a long time. The midwinter full Moon has a high trajectory across the sky because it is opposite a low Sun.

Did YOU?
Happen
To **Know** ●

A lodge of Red Men is called a Tribe, and its meeting hall is called a Wigwam. The officers of the Tribe are Sachem (chief), Prophet (chaplain), Senior Sagamore (lesser chief), Junior Sagamore (lesser chief), Chief of Records (secretary), Collector of Wampum (financial secretary), Keeper of Wampum (treasurer). The supreme head of the order is called the Great Inehonee.

Eastview, Kentucky was founded in 1870. Located on the Illinois Central Railroad line it quickly began to prosper and grow. Eastview was thriving by producing large amounts of sand and sumac; it began to grow as no other Hardin County community had before the early 1900's.

Reprinted from The Elizabethtown News,
July 28, 1899 - Page 4, Column 3.

EAST VIEW

The Sumac Industry, A Factory Started and Farmers Making Money Out of It.

A new industry has recently been established at East View, this county, under the style of The Great Diamond Company. The President of the company is Mr. Gen. H. Leonard and the Manager is Mr. R. W. Hopkins, of the firm of A. Hopkins & Co., of New Albany, Ind., where they formerly conducted the same kind of business though on a small scale. This enterprise the company proposed to make permanent and to increase it from season to season as they are constructing an extensive plant here. It means the expenditure annually not only in this county but in neighboring counties of thousands of dollars and will therefore necessarily benefit the people to that extent. The leaves of the sumac plant are gathered and dried and sold to the company after which they are ground and in the latter form used for tanning purposes. Its gathering and drying comes at a time very convenient, to farmers as it is after wheat harvest and the corn is laid by. All can work at it; men, women and children and as neither planting nor cultivations is required it pays them very well. The company recently sent out into new territory some old experienced hands to instruct new beginners though the company is ready to furnish information free to all who desire it. We feel assured that our country has already been benefited greatly by the industry a sumac is being hauled in daily by the thousand pounds and the people receive their pay either in goods or cash. The merchants say they have sold more goods in the past two weeks than they did in two months previous to that time. More money and more energy is what we need in our town to make it a success, consequently we think we have the right man in the right place as Mr. Hopkins is a man full of energy and honor. Now as the good Lord has blessed us again and sent rain on our perishing corn crops, gardens, etc., we believe that the people will turn their attention to the sumac harvest as there will be more money in it this year for them than in their corn fields.



The leaves of certain varieties of sumacs yield tannin (mostly pyrogallol), a substance used in vegetable tanning. Leather tanned with sumac is flexible, light in weight, and light in color, even bordering on being white.



Edible wild plants make fine wine

In *Stalking the Good Life*, the late naturalist Euell Gibbons wrote about wild berries, nuts and dining off the land. Berries can be fashioned into a palatable wine; but berries are only a sampling of what is out there growing in the wild and available to be harvested and turned into wine.

Many plants bear fruit or other components that can be made into wine suitable for just about any palate, just look at the dandelion.

The common staghorn sumac (*Rhus typhina*) of the Eastern United States and readily found in Hardin County, is one of the species whose fruit is used in wine making. It contains red berries when ripe (and are sometimes inaccurately and collectively called red sumac) that may be used to make a fairly decent wine.

The staghorn sumac derives its name from the countless tiny hairs covering its branches and resembling the tines of a deer's antlers. Its fruit grow at the terminus of new growth in very large, upright bunches of small, red berries. These small fruit are covered with red hairs and filled with a sour juice rich in malic acid and tannin. Fruit should be gathered soon after turning red, as the longer the remain on the bush the more tasteless they become. Fully ripe staghorn sumac should taste sour. Do NOT extract juice with boiling or hot water, or else too much tannin will be extracted and will result in an astringent and bitter wine.

No matter where you live in the world, you live but a short walk or drive away from more edible wild plants than you probably ever imagined. Ancient man was successful as a species because he was capable of eating a very large variety of plants and animals.

STAGHORN SUMAC WINE

5 lbs ripe staghorn sumac berries
3 lbs finely granulated sugar
1 gallon water
1 crushed Campden tablet
1 tsp yeast nutrient
1 packet Lalvin 71B-1122 (Narbonne) or RC212 (Bourgovin) wine yeast
Wash to remove dust and insects. Put clusters in container, cover with water and mash or crush the berries with 4" x 4" piece of hardwood. Strain juice into primary through clean muslin to remove plant hairs and pulp. Add sugar, crushed Campden and yeast nutrient and stir well until all sugar is dissolved. (NOTE: Sugar could be dissolved in boiling water beforehand but must cool to room temperature before pouring over sumac fruit.) Cover primary and set aside 12 hours. Add activated yeast, recover and stir daily. After 14 days of fermentation, transfer to secondary, and fit airlock. You should have more than one gallon of wine, so use a one-gallon secondary and a 1.5-liter wine bottle fitted with a #2 bung and airlock. The wine in the smaller secondary is what you will use to top up the one-gallon secondary. Rack, top up, and refit airlock every 30 days wine is clear and drops no sediments during 30-day period. Stabilize, sweeten to taste if desired, refit airlock, and set aside for 10 days. Rack into bottles and age at least one year before sampling. [Recipe adapted from Steven A. Krause's *Wines from the Wilds*]

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HARDIN COUNTY, KENTUCKY

First Twenty Years of Slavery 1792 - 1812

By Meranda Caswell, Hardin County History Museum Curator

During the formation of the State of Kentucky in 1792, it entered into the United States as a pro-slavery state, and free blacks were allowed to vote. However, a minority of settlers had brought their ideas of antislavery to the forefront of discussion. David Rice, an early Presbyterian minister who immigrated to Kentucky from Virginia, published *Slavery Inconsistent with Justice and Good Policy* and had spoken of anti-slavery at the formation meeting. This was the commonwealth's first discussion of antislavery. In 1799 the Second Kentucky Constitution was adopted and the free blacks had lost their right to vote. David Barrow, an early Baptist minister, formed in 1807 an association of churches in opposition to slavery: the Baptist Licking-Locust Association, Friends of Humanity. One of its members was Thomas Lincoln, father of the President Abraham Lincoln. Federal Law prohibited the African slave trade after 1808. Ironically, Kentucky became a major exporter of slaves to the South. The Kentucky Abolition Society (KAS) was founded in 1808. Their newspaper was called *Abolition Intelligencer and Missionary Magazine*. Founded in 1816 the ACS appealed to Kentuckians who feared free blacks in their community and as potential instigators of slave revolt. In 1825, free blacks were allowed to legally marry each other, but they were not allowed to marry slaves. In 1829 the Kentucky Colonization Society (KCS), the latter a branch of the national American Colonization Society (ACS), held the ideas to emancipate slaves gradually.

Evidence of anti-slavery is handwritten in the early court order record books in the Hardin County Clerk's Office. The court had four Justices of the Peace: Patrick Brown, John Vertrees, Robert Hodgens and Bladen Ashby. The duties of the first County Clerk, John Paul were to record the proceedings of the court and be the keeper of the county public records. John Paul was also the first Hardin County Coroner from 1793 to 1798. The other members of the county government were the Sheriff, the County Surveyor, the Tax Commissioner, the Pound Keeper, and the Overseer of the Poor House. During the first 20 years of Hardin County, several slave owners acted on their opinion about slavery and emancipated a total of fifteen slaves named Edenbrough, Becky, James, General, Nancy Smith, Catherine, Daghney, Nancy, Lucy, Mary, Bambo, Polly, Maga, Bambo, and John. Some of these slave owners comprised the newly formed Hardin county government. The slave owners who granted the freedom of these slaves were Patrick Brown, John Vertrees, James Brown (first Secretary of State), Abraham Vanmatre, Armisted Smith, John Paul, Benjamin Wright, Henry Ditto, and Jacob Vanmatre. Benjamin Wright was the first landholder to apply to the court to build a mill in Hardin County in 1796.

The 1810 federal census of Hardin County enumerated about 7,500 persons. White males, white females, free persons of color, male slaves and female slaves are all included in this enumeration. White males sixteen and over numbered about 2,800. Less than ten percent of free white males were slave owners. The census taker counted about 940 male and female slaves. Free persons of color numbered about 28. More than

half of the free persons of color lived in the household of a slave owner, probably as indentured servants. Several free persons of color named Ben, Harry Knab, Amos Savary, Lewis Arvington, James Locust, and Daniel Harris lived independently.

On January 17, 1803 Daniel Harris, a free black man, produced a certificate for a settlement of 200 acres of land in Hardin County. On January 6, 1807 Daniel Harris became a willing indentured servant for a term of four years to Jacob Vanmatre. In exchange, Daniel Harris would receive an emancipated mulatto woman named Maga and her two children named Bambo and John. The farmer Jacob Vanmatre paid James Percefull 100 pounds to purchase Maga and her children. Within the agreement, Daniel had to pay for all doctor bills and midwife bills during the said term. If Jacob uprooted to another part of the country, Daniel was to move with Jacob. In exchange, Jacob would provide good wholesome sufficient diet, clothing, and lodging during this servitude period. Jacob also agreed that if at any time during Daniel's servitude that if Daniel could pay the sum of one hundred pounds, then he was to have a credit in proportion to the time and was to have his liberty. Jacob agreed that at the expiration of the time specified he would free the said mulatto slave woman named Maga and all her children. Benjamin Helm, the Clerk of the Hardin County Court, recorded this agreement in the Hardin County Clerk's Office on 26 January 1807. On April 8, 1811 this agreement was fulfilled and presented to the Hardin County Court.

James Percefull, a slave owner, was commissioned to build the courthouse in 1804. It opened on 22 December 1806 and closed in 1872 when the next courthouse was built in the center of the Public Square. The 1810 Federal Census listed three Jacob Van Meter's in Hardin County. One, whose age was 45, had no slaves. Another, whose age was over 45, had one slave listed. Yet another, whose age was over 45, had four free persons of color living with him (probably Daniel Harris, Maga, Bambo and John).

A day-by-day record of the free persons of color does not exist, but crimes committed by and against free persons of color are recorded. Lewis Arvington, James Locust, and General Braddock, free persons of color, had to go to court for failure to turn in taxable property. Ned, a Negro man slave belonging to Thomas Helm, was charged with burglary of Daniel Waide's grain house and taking away \$66 in species of silver coins belonging to Amos, a free mulatto man. Ned was found not guilty. Benjamin Ogden, the jailer of Hardin County, received payment for keeping Ned for six days. David Vance was paid for the handcuffs used on Ned. In the Green County, KY May Circuit Term, three free persons of color James Lucas, Moses Lucas, and Austin Lucas were charging Morton Mauldin with trespass. Mauldin was found guilty.

Other court cases in Hardin County were crimes committed by slaves as well as crimes against slaves. Samuel Givans a Negro man slave named George who was damaged in a fight, part of his left ear was bitten off. John Mosley was charged with murdering Alexander a Negro man belonging to Jacob Larue, Sr. He was found not guilty and released from jail. A Negro man named Adams belonging to Charles Helm was jailed and found

not guilty. A Negro man named Cesar belonging to Thomas McIntire was jailed and found not guilty. A Negro man named Con belonging to James Percefull was ordered to jail. He was found guilty. His appeal was denied. He was sentenced to death.

As the first of each year, slave owners were charged taxes on slaves. Entries in the early court order records indicate that some slave owners were receiving slaves after the first of the year and were being overcharged for them. The records do not give any description of how these slaves were acquired. Slave owners hired out their slaves. The Sheriff hired some of the incarcerated slaves. Once a slave reached a certain age, the slave owner would request an exemption from future payment of taxes and county levies on that particular slave. William Withers requested just that for his Negro woman named Filler.

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- Will Book A, Hardin County Clerk's Office, Elizabethtown, Ky., 33, 45, 89.

Hardin County Clerk record of Daniel Harris' indenture to Jacob Vanmatre. At the end of the four year term Daniel Harris and his land is found listed as free/unencumbered in the Hardin County Clerk record. Harris' land lay in the portion of Hardin County that became Grayson County.

Photo courtesy of the Hardin County Clerk

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*Exam'd
of Belwin*

This Indenture of agreement made concluded and entered into this sixth day of January one thousand eight hundred and seven between Jacob Vanmatre farmer of the County of Harrods and State of Kentucky of the one part and Daniel Harris labourer and a free black man of the County and state aforesaid of the other part Witnesseth that the said Daniel in consideration of a certain sum of money paid by him the said Jacob for him the said Daniel containing one hundred and pounds the said consideration being paid by him the said Jacob in consequence of his releasing and for ever acquitting a certain Slave man and woman belonging to Daniel Pericuff and owned and claimed by him the said Daniel for wife and in consequence of the said release and acquittal of the said Daniel Harris latter the day bound and indentured myself to him the said Jacob for the term of four years from the date to faithfully serve and obey him in all lawfull commands and not absent myself from his real and actual service without consent by making up all best times when caused by sickness or absence in any Occasions and the said Daniel doth agree to pay all doctors bills or bills of wife bills occasioned during the Term of time above mentioned and do agree to move or remove in any part of the United States with him the said Jacob whenever Occasions may require and the said Jacob on his part doth consent and agree to and with the said Daniel that he will not exact any thing unreasonable or unjust for him to do in his service and is to find him good wholesome sufficient and due as to clothing and bedding during his service and doth further agree that if at any time in the term of his service he shall be unable to pay the sum of one hundred one hundred pounds he is to have a credit in proportion to the time and is to have his liberty and the said Jacob doth further covenant and agree that at the expiration of the time specified he will acquit release and forever set at liberty the said Mentals Slave woman named Maga

Jacob Vanmatre

Daniel Harris

Maga and all her children to be free and unincumbered from by me my heirs or assigns and as for as Maga discharge assigned her the said Maga without having any further names on her or her children either myself or her assigns any persons or persons claiming in through by or under me who ever she testimony whereof the said Jacob Vanmatre and Daniel Harris have hereunto set their hands and affixed their seals the day and date first therein written

Jacob Vanmatre

Daniel Harris

As witness my hand and seal for Harrods County on Monday the 26th day of January 1817 this instrument of writing was signed and sent and acknowledged by the parties and read to them

Benjamin Adams, C. C.

Grayson Springs, a summer resort community, opened in 1830. This once celebrated spa lies on Bear Creek, 2 miles below its head, and 3 1/2 miles ESE of Leitchfield. There are over 100 springs on a quarter acre of ground and these numerous mineral springs had been known to white settlers as the Sulphur Springs for some time before 1836 when Virginia-born James Fielding Clarkson purchased 500 acres including the spring from W.R. Hines and built a hotel.

The post office of Grayson springs was established on July 28, 1841 by Manoah P. Clarkson, James Fielding's son.

The celebrated Grayson Springs is where the 27th Kentucky Infantry made 1861-62 winter camp. Several regiments used the site as a camp during the Civil War.

In the book **Yankee Cavalrymen Through the Civil War with the 9th Pennsylvania Cavalry** by John W. Rowell, William Thomas a soldier in this famous volunteer unit nicknamed "Lochiel Cavalry" descriptively remembered the location. "On Feb. 18, 1862 the regiment camped at Grayson Springs. In the yard there are 24 sulphur springs. All different kinds of water, a regular summer resort for the big bugs. The house is used as a hospital and full of Kentucky soldiers sick and convalescent. The 9th PA Cavalry lay over for a day at Grayson Springs in Camp Wortham and then marched on to Leitchfield.

The 27th Kentucky Infantry broke winter camp a few days later on Feb. 22nd and moved to Green River to face the Southern Troops while men like Andrew Jackson Avery were left behind for medical care.

A dozen men from the 27th Kentucky Infantry died at Grayson Springs and sixteen deserted from the encampment.

Jacob VanMeter family name linked to Grayson Springs

Those familiar with Hardin County history find the Jacob VanMeter name turning up quite often - Jacob Sr., Jacob Jr. and Captain Jacob. The name is linked to Grayson Springs and great wealth as well.

Hardin County's Captain Jacob VanMeter was the son of Henry VanMeter (born 1717 in Somerset Colony of New Jersey) who married Eve Pyle. Henry's brother was Hardin County's Jacob VanMeter, Sr., the father of Hardin County's Jacob Jr.

Henry also had a grandson by the name of Jacob VanMeter who was born in Botetourt County, Virginia and settled in Warren County, Kentucky at Bowling Green in 1818.

The Warren County Jacob VanMeter was a highly successful mercantile businessman as well as owning between 4,000 to 5,000 acres of farmland and a great number of slaves. (During the Civil War he reportedly lost over \$75,000.00 worth of property.) This Jacob VanMeter also built and operated the first steamboat on the Barren and Green Rivers and obtained a charter to build the Bowling Green and Portage Railroad.

Before the Warren County Jacob's death in 1874, two of his sons, William S. VanMeter and Charles purchased the Grayson Springs property and developed it into one of the most popular watering places during the era before it was sold in 1884 for the considerable sum of \$100,000.00.

Disease claims soldier's life

Andrew Jackson Avery lived just across the Hardin County line in Hart County, Kentucky. A farmer and father, Avery had signed up on October 12th, 1861 in Campbellsville for a three-year enlistment in the Union Army.

The need for soldiers in the Commonwealth was so vast that General Sherman penned a letter to the Adjutant-General in Washington saying "the organization is necessarily irregular, but the necessity is so great, that I must have them and therefore have issued to them arms and clothing during the process of formation." Further correspondence shows that the badly needed arms, materials, wagons and ammunitions were slow to materialize for the newly formed 27th Kentucky Infantry and others like them.

General Don Carlos Buell assumed command of these troops from Sherman and shortly was faced with the report of four thousand Confederates descending on Rochester. Green River Lock No. 1 and areas upstream were threatened by attack. Lucky enough the confrontation did not occur and the ill prepared 27th was able to form a winter camp where they were whipped into the shape of a fighting regiment.

The first encampment during the winter of 1861-62 was at Grayson Springs, Kentucky. The camp was named Camp Wortham and it was here that the men were issued arms and other regulation army supplies along with training.

Along with camp life came complications of so many men living together, unsanitary conditions and disease. Measles and mumps attacked the crowded camps. Complications like pneumonia arose from the disease and took its toll too. Then came disease and death from the unsanitary living conditions in the form of typhoid and dysentery.

Araminta, the wife of Andrew Jackson Avery, a Private in Company E, 27th Kentucky Infantry received a letter from R.D. Overstreet, the Hospital Steward at Camp Wortham. The brief letter dated March 13th, 1862 was written out of a sense of duty to inform the new widow about the typhoid killer that took her husband's life just the day before. In all, fifteen men died of disease at Camp Wortham while camped there for the winter.

Like many other widows, Mrs. Avery was left to fend for herself and the young children left behind as husbands were buried with all the honors of war by his fellow Soldiers. Disease or wounds, death showed no preference in taking casualties of the war.

Years later, Araminta Avery applied for a pension and Captain John R. Robinson, a "man of impeccable character and integrity" and with Co. E, 27th Kentucky Infantry gave an affidavit that Andrew Jackson Avery had been a "good and efficient soldier" in his company who, at the time of his enlistment had been of "good and sound bodily health." Avery had, however, died at Grayson Springs on March 12, 1862 under his command. Robinson's testimony secured a government pension for Mrs. Avery of \$12.00 per month until her death in 1899.

NOTE: AJ Avery is the great-great-grandfather of Kenny Tabb.

Grason Springs March 19th 1862
Wm Avery

I deem it my duty
to write to you to inform you of the death of
your husband ^{ago} He died on the 12th of this month
this disease was Typhoid fever. He was confined
to bed about 3 weeks. He was under the care of
Dr Weston the Surgeon of our Regiment aided by
myself and (Mrs Mars and Hall) The two latter
were his nurses. He was in a good room provided
with all attentions that we could give him.
He was buried to day with all the honors of war
by his fellow Soldiers. The shoes left in hospital
his articles of war also \$3.00 Cents which is in
the hands of Dr Weston who will by order of you
send it immediately to you. He expressed a
strong anxiety to be carried home if he died
and if not home to his brothers. The Regiment
being gone we were unable to make proper
arrangements for his conveyance home. But
if you want him brought home and can
come down or send a wagon or any conveyance
for him I will aid in taking him up.

We will be here for two weeks yet if you
cannot come in that time at any other time
you can easily learn where he is buried and
be aided by the neighbors in taking him up.
I send you a lock of his hair which I have
cut off after he was dead. I also send you
own hair which he had in his pocket book.

I will close my letter as there is nothing
more of importance. Yours Truly
R. D. Overstreet Hospital Steward

Hardin County site of early steamboat construction

By Susan McCrobie,

Hardin County History Museum Promotions Chair

In 1804, Solomon Brandenburg bought 3,000 acres of land in western Hardin County along the Ohio River. A license was obtained from the Hardin County Court and recorded in Court Order Book A, Page 530-1 in the December Term 1804 to operate a ferry crossing the Ohio River to Harrison County, Indiana at a break in the two hills. It was licensed as Brandenburg's Landing and Ferry.

Solomon Brandenburg was also issued another license documented in the Hardin County records. On May 14, 1807 he wed Elizabeth Swan Kennedy, the widow of Robert Kennedy. According to Haycraft's History of Elizabethtown, Mr. Kennedy had been shot in the back as he ran, resisting arrest on a penal charge after he and Elizabeth left a preaching at the old Baptist meeting house on the hill.

According to the Hardin County Clerk Record, Brandenburg is also listed as petitioning the court to see to building a road connecting Elizabethtown with the area where Solomon Brandenburg's Landing and Ferry a located on the Ohio River. This was good fiscal business for Elizabethtown area residents wanting to ship their good down river for sale. However, flatboats took goods down the river but they couldn't come back up so in 1814 Captain Solomon Brandenburg built a steamboat at the Landing and Ferry. The steamboat was called *Elizabeth* in honor of his wife, Elizabeth. The *Steamboat Elizabeth* was built only three years after the construction of the first steamboat, the *Orleans* (or *New Orleans*) at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The *Elizabeth* was owned by a company of local citizens who later sold it at New Orleans, Louisiana due to a lack of financial success with the venture.

A second boat was built in 1816. The steamboat was known as the *Hornet* and records dated October 9, 1821 find Edward Hayden and Joseph Atwill listed with 'two shares in the *Steamboat Hornet* at \$100 each.' There is also litigation in the Circuit Court records styled John Welch vs. *Hornet Steamboat Company* that was later dismissed. The names of William L. McGehee, Solomon Brandenburg, Edward Hayden, Lewis Carroll and Caleb Morton were all listed in the proceedings as members of the company.

A third boat built at Brandenburg's Landing and Ferry in 1822 was known as the *Grecian*. The steamboat building venture ended in financial failure however the boats built at Brandenburg's dock were some of the earliest boats constructed in the west. They were very poplar on the river before the arrival of railroads because they could travel both ways on the water unlike flatboats.

On the motion of Solomon Brandenburg it is ordered that a ferry be & it is hereby established on his land on the Ohio River about one quarter of a mile below Fleppens run ^{across} the said river as far as the state line goes - and the said Solomon Brandenburg is hereby appointed ferry keeper he having given bond as the law requires, and it is ordered that he receive twenty five cents for the ferry of man & horse & no more & for a horse on by trotter and one half cents, and the same for a footman as for horse - & the said Brandenburg is required to keep a boat sufficient for the transporting of a wagon & four horses, and two able hands to work said boat.

December Term 1804

On the motion of William Lane it is ordered that a ferry be & it is hereby established on his land on the Ohio River about two miles below the mouth of Allen Creek across said river as far as the state line, and the said William Lane is hereby appointed ferry keeper of said ferry he having given bond & security as the law requires, and it is further ordered that he receive twenty five cents & no more for the transportation of a man & horse across said river & for a single man or horse trotter & one half cents, and no more - It is further ordered that the said William Lane do keep a sufficient boat to transport a wagon & four horses, ^{across said river} & two able hands to work said boat -

Ordered that Court be adjourned till Court in course

George Bate

PUTTING THE MILL BEFORE THE RIVER...

Bland Grist Mill

WATER POWERED OPERATION FUELED
FROM A NATURAL SPRING SOURCE

Down Amish Lane, just off Horseshoe Bend Road in the southern portion of Hardin County is a site you won't soon forget. A natural wonder of this county and one that a pioneer family took advantage of when it came to making use of their yearly yield of corn.

Nestled at the base of a slope is a bubbling spring. Well actually it gushed according to Kenny Tabb, a descendant of Bland's Mill original owner, who visited the site in mid-March.

The site is quite remarkable, a good size pond fed by the generous spring and a large gaping hole that swallows the continuously flow of water. The beginning and the end all within a short distance.

While this water hole appears to be literally located between a rock and a hard place it's developer was not to be found in the same quandary when it came to getting his corn ground during a time when there were no roads to transport the crop to a mill. He built his own grist mill on this pond and harnessed the power of the water emerging from the earth before it flowed into a large size cavern and returned out of sight only to drop from the cavern floor into the regions below.

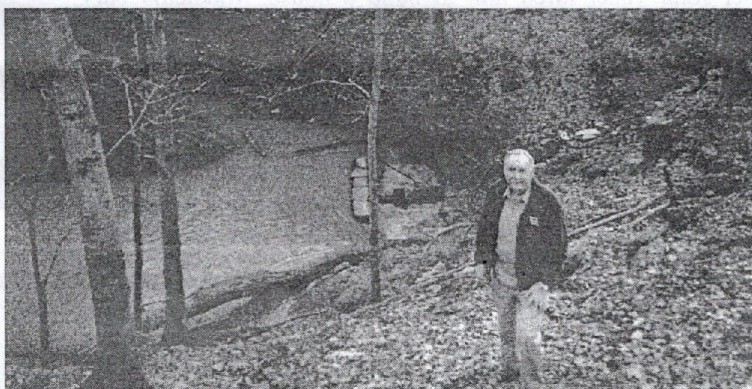
The original owner's of the mill, Daniel Tabb and his son, Jesse Tabb, must have spent considerable time cutting and stacking stone for the mill pond and cutting trees for timber to build the mill house and great wheel.



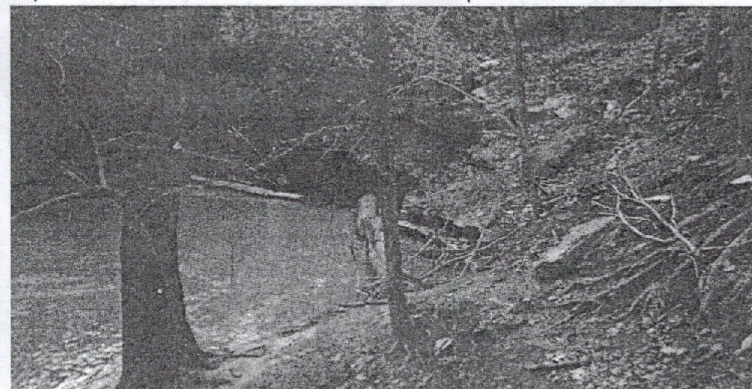
Kenny Tabb stands along side iron works of an abandoned pulley attached to timber from Bland Mill.



Water bubbles up from the ground in the mill pond at the site of old Bland Mill in southern Hardin County.



Kenny Tabb, a descendant of the Bland family, stands overlooking the pond at the site of old Bland Mill. Note mill stones remains still in place where the structure once stood operational.



Water exits the mill pond, dropping into an underground cave, only to resurface in the Nolin River at Harcourt.

Photo courtesy of Kenny Tabb and John Lay



Left to right: In the classic *Laurel & Hardy Flying Deuces* (1939), with the great Will Roger in *The County Chairman* (1935), action packed *Dick Tracey Returns* (1939), in inset and as Abraham Lincoln in *Phantom President* (1932.)

Early Hardin County resident on silver screen

By Susan McCrobie,
Hardin County History Museum Promotions Chair

Charles B. Middleton was born in Elizabethtown, Kentucky on the 3rd of October 1879. His father, Hugh Montgomery Middleton, a former Captain of Confederate Army Co. H 29th Georgia Regiment had moved his wife, Mary Carter, and small daughter to Louisville after the war and then on to Elizabethtown after John Tuner hired him to build a house. Middleton later operated the Hill Hotel and the family expanded to include Charles.

Captain Middleton was a good decent man but rather stern. He was a disciplinarian having a military background and a father, Captain John Middleton, whose military service in the Revolutionary War most likely accented the no nonsense, hard work ethic of service to others that a young boy like Charles found less than appealing. At least these are the reasons that Charles Middleton told his own grandson were the catalyst for his running away from home at the age of 12 to join the circus. His family moved to Chattanooga, Tennessee shortly after Charles' departure.

Middleton's first job with the circus was that of an Elephant Boy. He cleaned out stalls and bathe and groomed the elephants. He also traveled and met interesting people. By the age of fourteen he had become interested in Shakespeare having come in contact with theater folks. When he turned eighteen he left the circus to form his own stock company to play Shakespeare. During that time he played both romantic leads as well as that of the villain.

On March 23, 1903, Captain Hugh M. Middleton died in Chattanooga, Tennessee. It is evident from his impressive obituary notice published March 30, 1903 in the *Chattanooga News (Times)* that he was a highly respected member of the community, member of the county court and an active member of the Democratic Party. The article also includes the following line: "The deceased leaves a wife and four children, two boys and two daughters. They are Harry and Charles MIDDLETON of Pittsburgh, PA., Miss Margaret MIDDLETON of New York and Mrs. E. O. Wells of this city." Evidently Charles had made good with his father after leaving home so abruptly years earlier.

Charles Middleton was well on his way making it good in his chosen profession. He appeared in vaudeville for many years and at the age of 50 he arrived in Hollywood in the 1920's and racked

up almost 150 B film rolls in the next twenty-year time span.

Middleton acted in some low-budget western such as his role as 'Buck Peters' in the first hopypy film, *HOP-A-LONG CASSIDY* (Paramount, 1935). His most memorable role as 'Ming the Merciless' in the three *FLASH GORDON* serials placed him as the ultimate evil villain who ruled over his own empire.

Apparently Middleton's granite hard chiseled looks, sneer and booming voice lead Hollywood to typecast him in a long line of bad guy roles, however, in a far less villainous vein, he also was cast as Tom Lincoln, father of the 16th president, in *Abe Lincoln in Illinois* (RKO Radio Pictures, 1940.) He also portrayed the Great Emancipator himself in four movies and also Jefferson Davis in *Virginia City* (Warner Bros., 1940.)

Middleton died at age 74 in Los Angeles, California on April 22, 1949. He is buried in the Hollywood Forever Cemetery in Hollywood, California.

Counterclockwise: Personal photo of the successful Hollywood screen star Charles B. Middleton, Middleton as a character in one of his many film roles, and Middleton in costume of his most famous role, Ming the Merciless.



Photos courtesy of
Burr Middleton Hoyle
Filmix interview



Message From The President

To converse with historians is to keep good company; many of them were excellent men, and those who were not, have taken care to appear such in their writings.

-Lord Bolingbroke

While many of us are not nor ever will be known as "historians", it is this common interest which brings us together four times a year to appreciate not only the history of our local communities but our passion for keeping it alive as well. It is this same passion that should inspire each of us to record and preserve history in all of its truths, not just those that most comfortably fit into our ideals.

It is with this sense of passion that we will be able to appreciate the wonderful and very real story of the Tuskegee Airmen as delivered by Ronald Spriggs, a Chautauqua speaker with the Kentucky Humanities Council and recipient of the Tuskegee Airmen's 2006 Outstanding Service Award. These talented aviators, many of who were native Kentuckians, made an often-overlooked contribution to the United States victory in World War II and perhaps more importantly, to the beginning of racial integration and social equality throughout America.

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

- Jeff Lanz

An Inspiring Icon... Jefferson Davis

Don't miss the celebration of his 200th birthday in June at the Hardin County History Museum .
Come and discover his local story laced with love, honor and a bit of humor!

KENTUCKY
HISTORY
AWARDS

The Historical Confederation of Kentucky and
the Kentucky Historical Society present this

Certificate of Commendation

to

Hardin County Historical Society

for Publication—Newsletter/Journal
Bits and Pieces of Hardin County History

March 1, 2008

Eric Brooks

Eric Brooks, Board President
Historical Confederation of Kentucky

3/1/08
Date

Chris Goodlett

Chris Goodlett, Community Services Coordinator
Kentucky Historical Society

3/1/08
Date

HCK
KentuckyHistoricalSociety

History in the making

For the past year, the Hardin County Historical Society newsletter folks have been busy pouring over the records of the county in order to re-tell the stories surrounding people and events of the area that gives dimension on today's life in the county. Along the way, the staff picked up an award from the state honoring their top notch presentation of old news that continues to be vibrant—and relevant—today.

Historical Society announces next meeting



Ronald L. Spriggs

The Hardin County Historical Society will meet Monday evening, April 28, 2008, at the STATE THEATER GALLERY, 209 West Dixie Avenue, in downtown Elizabethtown. The buffet dinner, catered by BACK HOME, will be served at 6:30 PM. The price is \$7.50 per person. Call Mary Jo Jones at 765-5593 for dinner reservations.

The dinner is followed by a program at 7:00 PM. Special Guest Chautauquan Speaker, Ronald Spriggs, dramatizing The Tuskegee Airmen and Their Kentucky Connections.

The Tuskegee Airmen formed the first all-black combat units in the U. S. Army Air Corps. Trained in Tuskegee, Alabama, about 450 Tuskegee Airmen were deployed overseas during World War II. In this talk, Spriggs will review the splendid record the Tuskegee Airmen compiled as they battled the Axis Powers in Europe—and racism at home. He will also discuss Kentucky's connections to this historic group. They include flight instructor Willa Brown of Glasgow, commanding officer Col. Noel Parrish of Lexington, twelve cadets from around Kentucky, and a victorious P51 Mustang fighter called *Miss Kentucky State*.



HARDIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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