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# Bits and Pieces

OF HARDIN COUNTY HISTORY

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## J.R. Neighbors lives short life NAME RECORDED ON BOTH SIDES OF THE LAW IN MANY MEMORABLE TALES OF COUNTY LEGEND

By Susan McCrobie, Hardin County Historical Society

The name J.R. Neighbors is forever linked with that of Carrie Nation to folks familiar with Elizabethtown's colorful history. This is only one of the many memorable chapters spanning the 56 year life of this Buckles Mill native.

As a young man, Neighbors operated a saloon in the bustling community of Nolin before moving to Elizabethtown.

On January 3, 1896, the Elizabethtown News reported J.R. Neighbors, Felix Wise, Ovid Funk, and George Weller were candidates for town Marshall. Neighbors served one term in this capacity before engaging in the saloon business once again.

The assault and battery indictment in November 1904 for the July attack of Carrie Nation on the city streets at the hands of Neighbors served as just one of the high profile cases against this businessman while engaged in what Nation referred to as "a dirty business."

In February 1900, Neighbors had also been charged in the local courts for assault and battery as well as furnishing liquor to a minor. The November 1904 assault of Nation resulted in a small fine and several sermons by the local churches on the ills of drink.

Neighbors' name was on the docket in Hardin Circuit Court once again the first Monday of June, 1905 this time for felony murder.

On January 29, 1907, J. R. Neighbors went out of the saloon

### HITTING CARRIE NATION.

### Neighbors Is Fined \$15.00 In Hardin Circuit Court.

The trial of J. R. Neighbors for hitting Carrie Nation over the head with a chair, was tried in the Circuit Court Wednesday and resulted in a fine of only \$15.00.

*-Elizabethtown News, March 10, 1905*

business when his license expired. By the middle of February of the same year, all saloons in town were closed and the county was entirely dry for the first time since 1890 when Elizabethtown voted wet.

Neighbors then operated a harness and saddlery shop until the time of his death.

J.R. Neighbor's Saloon once stood where the East Dixie Municipal Parking is currently located. Readers may remember the pool room, restaurant and shoe shop that once operated in this location. This group of buildings located at 117-121 East Dixie and abutted Haycraft Alley was dismantled in November 1964 by Mose Polk. Polk was paid \$ 25 to raze the buildings on the 55x210 ft. lot.

Photo Courtesy  
John R. Lay



## J.R. NEIGHBORS cont.

The entrance to J.R. Neighbor's Saloon is marked by an arrow. The small, shotgun style building to the right of the saloon is the current location of the Cobbler's Cafe. According to a July 1912 plat of city businesses with square footage and utilities noted, the Cobbler's Cafe was used as office space. The larger building to its right was a printing office equipped with a stove for heating, electric lights and gasoline engine power.

## THE NEIGHBORS JURY.

### Ten Men Accepted and Two to be Selected This Morning.

As detailed in the account of the court proceeding in this issue, the Circuit Court has had quite a little experience making up the first jury under the new law. The law provides that bystanders cannot be summoned by the Sheriff as was formerly done, but the names must be drawn from the jury wheel.

The Neighbors case was called Tuesday, the day after the law went into effect. Much care has been exercised on both sides in the selection of a jury in this case. The two regular panels of 24 men were exhausted, and the court has drawn from the wheel 125 names, still but 10 jurors have so far been accepted. However, 45 names are in reserve for this morning. The Commonwealth has used all its five peremptory challenges, while the defense has used eleven, having four more left.

The jurors accepted by both sides are as follows: W. H. Bunker, Alonzo Pate, James Miller, Ed Laswell, John W. Miller, E. M. Cox, J. B. Stoner, Alex Needham, A. E. Stone and Louis Mansfield.

*-Elizabethtown News, July 15, 1906*



Photo Courtesy  
John R. Lay

The following story is reprinted in its entirety from the June 19, 1906 issue of the Elizabethtown News.

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## NOT GUILTY.

Jury Says Bob Neighbors  
Shot William Hobbs in Self-Defense.

Evidence Heard For and Against The Defendant.

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After a very short time in the jury room, the jury in the Neighbors case returned a verdict of "not guilty" early Saturday morning.

The shooting occurred in Neighbor's saloon on Saturday evening December 23 last. Hobbs was shot in the left breast and died about midnight Sunday night. The defendant relied upon self-defense, and the jury acquitted on the testimony. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday morning until 10 o'clock were spent in making up the jury. The evidence was all heard Friday, and was substantially as follows:

M.H. Williams was first called for the prosecution. He heard a crash at front of saloon and came to door of small room in which he was standing leading to saloon proper. This was first small room to left entering saloon. As he reached the door saw Hobbs starting back through saloon. Neighbors was standing back in saloon and fired. Hobbs reeled and caught on table, falling on left knee and elbow. Witness heard nothing said before the shooting. Heard Neighbors say immediately afterward that he could not have them cutting him and tearing up his house. Witness saw no knife, but said on cross examination he would not undertake to say he saw either Hobbs' right or left hand, that his attention was more centered on the man with the pistol.

Tom Chenault—Had been in saloon and started out. Met Hobbs at entrance. Hobbs told witness he could whip him and after some words attempted to draw his knife. Witness struck him and pushed him back against cigar stand. Then started back through saloon to go out back way and avoid trouble. Looked back and saw Hobbs coming through blinds. Neighbors began shooting. Heard him say nothing before shooting. Hobbs had right hand at side. Neighbors had not ordered witness out. Hobbs was pretty full, had been drinking at Neighbors' saloon. The noise outside was caused by Hobbs dropping two tin buckets and quart of whiskey when struck by witness. Witness was also drinking. Denied having previous conversation with Hobbs on street in which one of them said, "Go in and I'll stand by You." Hobbs was considered a dangerous man when drunk.

Mrs. Hobbs, widow of the dead man, arrived Sunday morning after the shooting. Hobbs died before midnight. He knew he was going to die and told her so. He said he was not mad at Neighbors and did not know Neighbors was

## J.R. NEIGHBORS cont.

mad at him. He also said his knife was in his pocket at the time of the shooting.

James Hobbs, son of the dead man, was with his father after he was wounded and heard the statement made to Mrs. Hobbs.

J.W. Hobbs, another son, testified to the same. Also stated that his father said Neighbors did not say anything to him before he shot.

Luther Chenault— Had had difficulty in the saloon that day. Did not hear Neighbors order Hobbs and Tom Chenault out. Drank with Hobbs in the saloon. Witness was drunk at time of shooting.

Dr. J.C. Mobley— Hobbs was removed to office of witness after shooting. The ball entered left breast and came out in small of back. Death resulted from the wound. After he had been on the table for some time a large knife slipped out of his pocket.

Adam Emmetsberger— Heard shooting and went out. Helped Egemann take Hobbs to Mobley's office. Hobbs had right hand in pocket, left on his breast.

Charles Egemann— Was on sidewalk when shooting occurred. Went with Hobbs to Dr. Mobley's office. Heard four shots fired. Saw Hobbs come out saloon door. Hobbs said, "I am shot." Witness saw no weapon.

W.H. Sprigg— Was in side room when shooting occurred. Heard shots but saw nothing.

The prosecution here resting, J.R. Neighbors took the stand for himself. He stated that Tom Chenault and brother and Hobbs had been having trouble in the saloon with different parties and he ordered them all out. Tom and Hobbs did not go out and he again told them to get out. About 20 minutes later Tom came back. Defendant told him to get out. Heard something drop in front and started to see what it was. Met Hobbs with large knife drawn in his right hand. Told him to put up his knife. Hobbs came on and defendant fired to scare him. He still came on with the knife raised; defendant backed about eight feet. Hobbs followed with knife lifted and was within a few feet when the shot was fired that took effect. Hobbs fell by table dropped the knife, then picked it up, put it in his pocket and went out. About that time a rock was thrown from the rear, striking the front swinging doors and breaking into three pieces.

William Kaiser, a bartender in the saloon, corroborated Neighbors. Said Hobbs had knife raised as he came through swinging door.

James Bunnel another bartender, at the time, stated substantially the same facts. Neighbors told Hobbs several times to stop before he shot him. Hobbs was going straight to Neighbors with his knife.

Wood Williams (colored) who tended lunch stand in the saloon, testified to same. Said Neighbors said, "Halt" two or three times before he fired last shot at Hobbs.

Ham Scott (colored)— Was porter at the saloon. Said Chenault and Hobbs came in together, Hobbs with knife drawn.

## Serving Jail Sentence for Carrying Concealed Weapon.

J. R. Neighbors was committed to jail Friday to serve a ten days' sentence imposed on him at the June term of Circuit Court for carrying concealed deadly weapon. The weapon was used on Christmas eve last year, when Wm. Hobbs was killed and Thomas Chenault wounded in Neighbors's saloon by pistol shots at his hands.

*-Elizabethtown News, December 18, 1906*

Thinks defendant told Hobbs three times to stop. Told much the same story as other witnesses for the defense.

Lank Warren— Was at Sweets' drugstore. Heard shots and saw Hobbs stagger out front of the saloon, seemed to be trying to put something in right pocket.

George McDougal (colored)— Had started out of saloon when Hobbs came in. Saw Hobbs come in with knife. Heard nothing said. Jumped over counter when shots were fired.

Frank Gray testified to previous trouble Chenaults were having in the saloon.

Tom Morehead— Heard conversation between Chenault and Hobbs shortly before the shooting, in which Chenault said, "If there's hell raised, I'll be with you."

Jim Parish (colored)— Was eating lunch in saloon. Heard Neighbors say, "Stop." Hobbs didn't stop and witness went out back door.

Isaiah Miller, James Peck Jeff Casebolt, Gen Bailey and Joe Smith stated that Hobbs was considered dangerous when drinking, and that his reputation for peace and quietude was not good, especially when intoxicated.

James Pierce— Nursed Hobbs; at times he was not at himself. Hobbs said he had knife when he went to saloon, but would not say whether he had it drawn. Also said Neighbors had previously told him not to come back into his place.

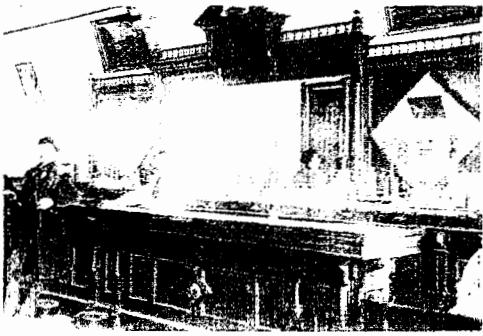
The defense here closed its evidence and the Jury went to view the scene of the shooting.

J.R. Neighbors opened his Elizabethtown saloon in January 1897 after the City Council granted him a license.

The saloon was located in the Bryan building where a Mr. Dixon had been the previous tenant before being outfitted with handsome new fixtures. Charles Lott was employed as barkeeper.

The Elizabethtown News reported, on January 29, 1897, that Neighbor's saloon was the fifth granted a license that year, making revenue from the source to the town \$2,500.

1900 era saloons were equipped with massive ornate bars comprised of elaborate mirrors and dark woods.



PHOTOS and RESEARCH

BY JOHN R. LAY

Author of Mills Along The Nolin River

## Off the Beaten Path at Stiles Mill Unique Place from the Past

VERTREES, KENTUCKY

The spring and ruins of the old dam located at the base of the cliff below the mill house at Stiles Mill.

**STILES MILL** — This long ago and forgotten mill was once a thriving business that serviced the communities of Vertrees and Howevalley in southwestern corner of the county. Located off Highway 86, the Old Elizabethtown-Hardinsburg Stagecoach Road, the remnants of the once impressive operation are now owned by Mr. Holmes Stiles.

Tracing back land title to the origin of the mill, the first mention of a mill on the grounds was when J.A. Richardson, owner since 1894, sold the property to Joseph and Owen Slaughter in 1948. This deed description mentions the "Eclipse Mill" but nothing more.

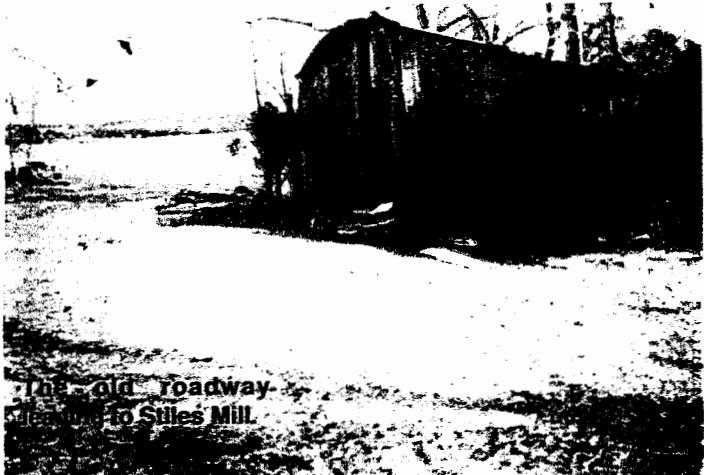
Shortly afterwards, the Slaughters sold the property to J.T. and Lewis Stiles.

The spring that serviced the mill comes from underground and travels for several yards before disappearing into a large cave. The old stone dam and wheel raceway are still present. They are easily observed as well as a trap door at the bottom of the dam once used for drainage.

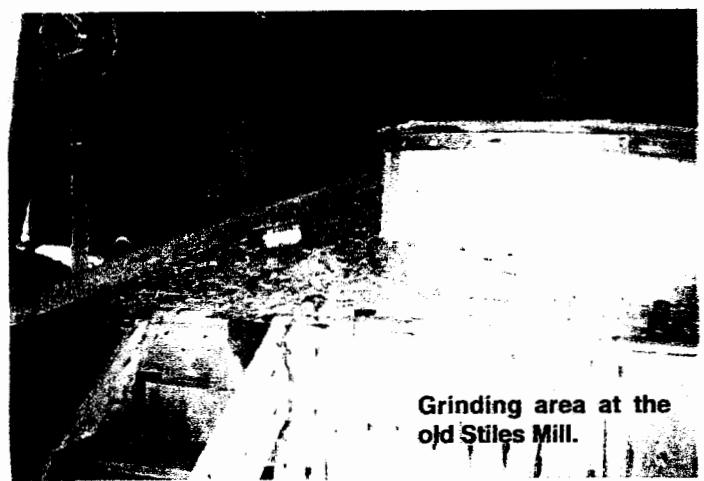
On a cliff, high above the mill pond stand the old mill house. Scattered inside are the old mechanical parts of the mill including wheels and pulleys.



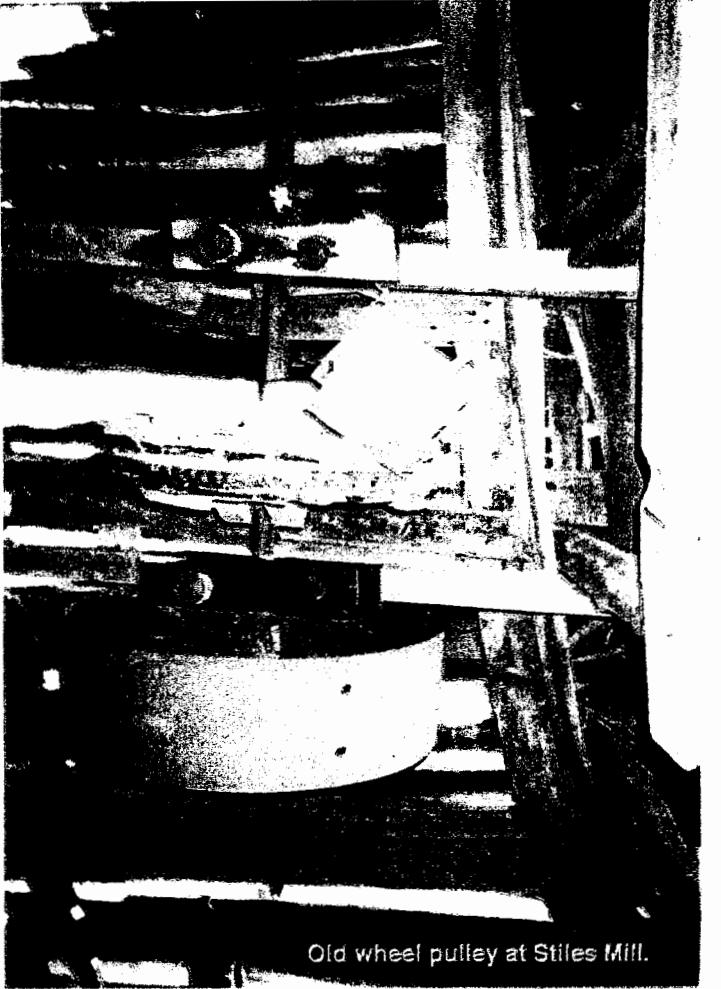
Old mill parts at Stiles Mill.



The old roadway to Stiles Mill.



Grinding area at the old Stiles Mill.



Old wheel pulley at Stiles Mill.

Like many other mill operations in the county, this mill was fitted with up-to-date improvements for the grinding of corn and other grains. But when that milling season was closed the wheel turned to the grinding of limestone at the Stiles Mill near Vertrees.

"Folks would buy agriculture lime from Mr. [J.T.] Stiles," recalls Harrison Evans whose grandpa, Eck Evans, owned a farm in the area at Constantine.

"They would buy it in 100 lb. lots and haul it out on flatbed wagons to spread on their fields," said Evans who added the roads at that time were still mostly dirt with some more frequently traveled ones, like the one in front of Stiles Mill, being gravel. Most farmers purchased resources locally, if they could, to keep from traveling to town on the poorly maintained roadway. A day traveling to town meant one less day in the field.

Before Stiles ground the massive limestone rocks, found in his fields, at the mill he would prepare the stone for lime production by burning the rocks and breaking them into smaller pieces.

Lime production from limestone, a raw natural resource that comprises about 15% of the earth's sedimentary crust, has been going on for over 2000 years. Lime is produced by calcination, the process of heating a substance to a high temperature but slightly below its melting point. The heating drives off carbon dioxide from the limestone and producing the lime during the chemical reaction.

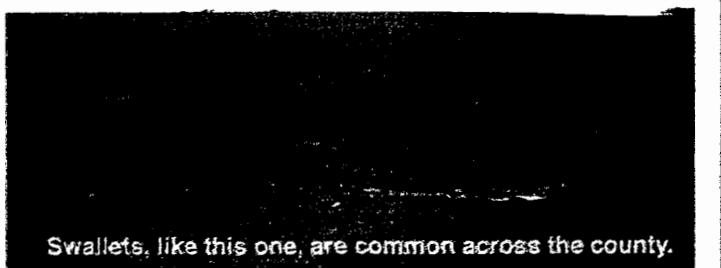
Stiles was a good farmer, who knew the value of lime along with fertilizer for improvement of soil, and an even better business man when he set about clearing his fields of huge stones and turning them into gold reaping a second yearly harvest.

## Stiles Spring a Natural Phenomena

Karts windows, such as Stiles Spring, are topographic depressions in which groundwater is discharged via a spring, flows along the surface for a short distance and then returns to the subsurface through a cave opening or a vertical shaft in the limestone commonly known as a sinkhole swallet.

The mill pond waters at Stiles Spring disappear through a sinkhole swallet.

An earlier Bits and Pieces explored another Karts window mill operation in the southern part of the county at Bland's Cave.



Swallets, like this one, are common across the county.

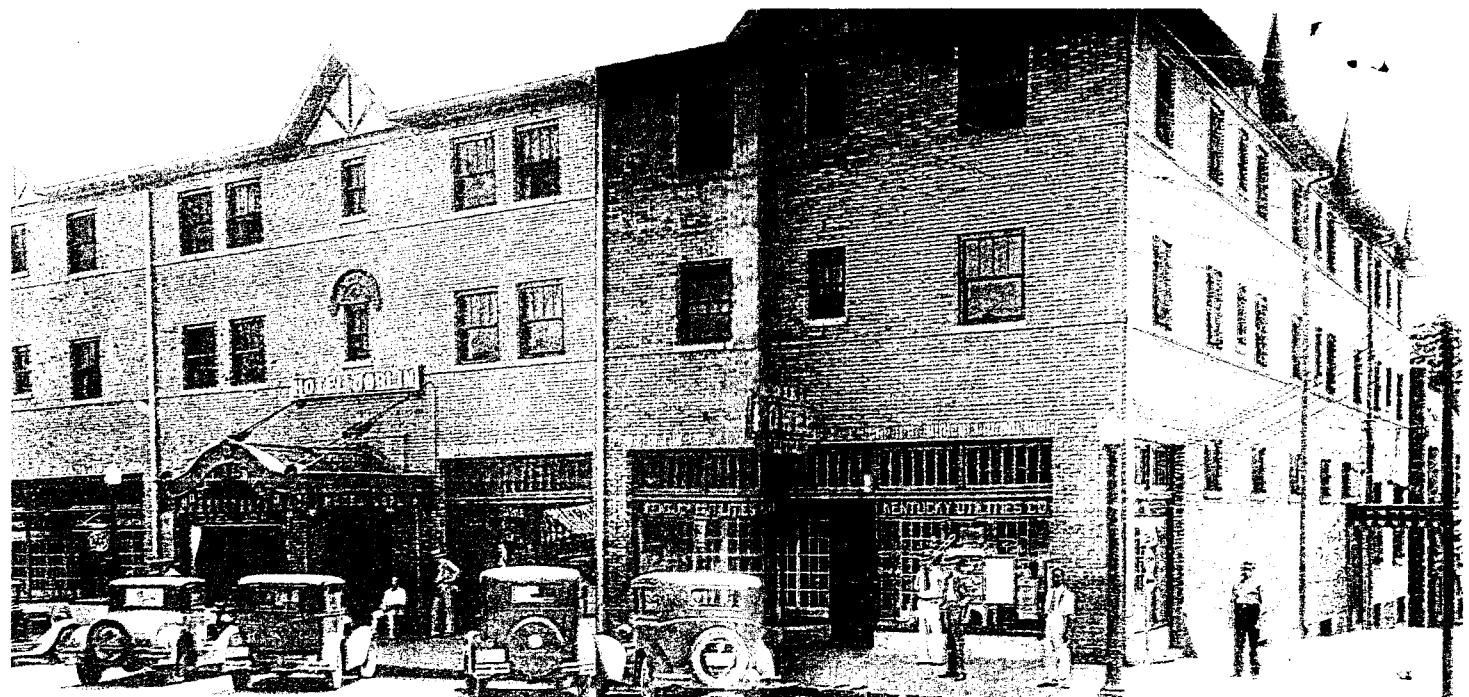


Photo Courtesy John R. Lay

#### ELECTRIC LIGHTS.

From figures received by the Mayor we are satisfied that Elizabethtown is not financially able to own its electric light plant as a satisfactory plant could not be put in for less than \$8,000. But that is no reason why we should not have electric lights. Not one town in twenty owns the plant and many towns the size of Elizabethtown have let the franchise to outside companies who were glad to put in the plants and are operating them successfully. The people of the town want lights, and they need them. In this respect they are worse off than they were fifty years ago. The idea of living in a town of 3,000 inhabitants in the nineteenth century with no street lights is preposterous and outrageous. Let the Council get a move on itself and do something. Let the outside world know that they will grant a franchise, on such terms as Glasgow, Russellville, Stanford and other towns have them and we believe that some enterprising firm will be glad to avail itself of the opportunity. If this can't be done let us have gas, or coal oil lamps, or candles, or pine knots. The best we can get so it's light. Let us have light.

**JUNE 29, 1895-** The city of Elizabethtown contracted the services of Mr. Lige Lewis at \$20 per month as lamp lighter of the coal oil lamps strategically positioned through the town. This was a labor intense job with the filling of the lamps, trimming of wicks, lighting and extinguishing of flames all from a ladder in all weather conditions. Sometimes keeping a flame burning during wind and rain bursts proved daunting.

Neighboring towns were all getting in the business of producing electricity to illuminate their streets and provide current for business enterprises. Elizabethtown was no different in its drive for economic advancements.

In April 1899, a contract was awarded Robert G. "Bob" Phillips, of Elizabethtown, under a 20 year franchise agreeing to furnish the city with arc lights, not to exceed \$1,200 per month. By contrast with coal oil lamps, the newly developed carbon arc lighting used electric current to produce a safe, clean light of unprecedented brilliance at a flip of a switch.

Phillips along with W.C. Montgomery and D.L. May formed the Elizabethtown Electric Light Company on July 31, 1899, with a capital stock of \$5,000 in order to satisfy services outlined in the franchise agreement with the city for lighting from their electric light plant.

Interestingly enough, in order to construct or maintain poles and electric lines the company instituted condemnation proceedings for said right of way over and through premises as provided for railroad companies within the commonwealth.

In 1912, the Kentucky Utilities Co. was founded and began contracting with towns across the state to provide public utilities services. The company provided more than electric current in many locations, like ice and water, thus the name utilities. The Elizabethtown location provided both current and water during its early history.

The May 6, 1913 issue of the Elizabethtown News headlines read UTILITIES CO. CONTRACT IS SIGNED. City Water Pumped for \$149.76 per month—Day Current July 1. At the monthly meeting of the City Council a contract

# Let there be light... and it was good!

*On January 5, 1900, the Elizabethtown News included the Elizabethtown Electric Light Company's \$15,000 improvement in town as one of the year's best.*

*This company operated for a total of seventeen years before selling its franchise to the Kentucky Utilities Company.*

between the city and the Kentucky Utilities Co. was ratified by the Mayor and KU's Vice President, Harry Reed.

The contract made the following provisions: that the Utilities Co., assignee of the franchise granted the Elizabethtown Light Co., shall install machinery sufficient to install a day current for commercial and motor power purposes.

The power expended was paid for at the following rates: 10¢ per kilowatt hours for the first 30 hours maximum demand; 5¢ per kilowatt hour for the second 30 hours maximum demand and 3¢ per hour for the remaining time, minimum bill to be 50¢ per month.

The city was required to install a motor driven steam pump at its waterworks plant. This Gould Single acting Tri-plex Plunger Pump with a capacity of 200 gallons a minute, operated by a 20 H.O. motor at a cost of \$1,110 was installed as agreed so the utilities company could operate the plant, pumping city water for a six month period to supply day and night current.

Kentucky Utilities Co. was required to carry \$6,000 worth of insurance on the leased city plant.

In May of that same year, the Kentucky Utilities Co. installed two new generators, at the Elizabethtown power house, deemed the latest and most expensive models adapted to power current as well as light.

By the end of 1913, a meter was installed at the city waterworks plant by Kentucky Utilities Co. and billing based upon daily consumption was enacted.

The Elizabethtown Electric Light Company ceased operation in its seventeenth year of operation. Like many other small companies across the commonwealth, its capital was brought out by the quickly expanding electricity provider, the Kentucky Utilities Co. Doors to the local office were opened to the public from its public square location.



Above: This 1900 photo of Goldnamers, takes in one of the new arc lights suspended from electric wires for city lighting. The inset to the right is a close-up of the fixture. Below: Just across the street from Goldnamers stood the Depp Building. In this photograph you can make out the coal oil lamp that was once used to illuminate the town.



## CRIMINAL DOCKET FULL OF COMPLIANTS

# Liquor at the Center of Local Woes

JUNE 12, 1906- The Elizabethtown News reported as they were about to go to press both sides had announced ready in prosecution against J.R. Neighbor, charged with the murder of Wm. Hobbs last December. The front page of that issue also announced a life sentence for Henry Whittaker for wife murder while under the influence of whiskey and several indictments by the grand jury against the Adams Express Company for shipping liquor from Elizabethtown into the prohibition territory at Sonora and other points within the county.

The sad affair of the Whittaker murder was held up in neighboring communities as an example of the ills of drink.

Reprinted in its entirety from the Tuesday, March 6, 1906 edition of the Elizabethtown News

### AN AWFUL CRIME

#### Henry Whittaker, Colored, Shoots and Kills His Wife in this City

*Whiskey Writes Another Record in Blood.*

One of the foulest and most cold-blooded murders that ever took place in the city occurred Saturday night, when Henry Whittaker, while in a state of intoxication and insane jealousy, shot and killed his wife, Susan Whittaker.

The married life of the couple was by no means pleasant, but was fraught with storms of family quarrels and embittered strife. Upon several occasions, it is said, the uncongenial and unhappy pair separated, but the strong solicitations of the man brought about reconciliations. Of late the woman absolutely refused to live any longer with her ill-matched husband.

The woman was a servant in the family of Mr. C.T. Warren at the time of the bloody affair, while Whittaker was in the employment of Mr. John L. Helm on the Helm place near town. Saturday Whittaker became intoxicated and called on his wife in the Warren kitchen and endeavored to persuade her to return to him, but his pleadings were of no avail. Hot words followed and finally the quarrel ended in the murder. Whittaker enraged at his wife on account of the attention of other men, crazed by whiskey and maddened by her refusal to live with him, drew his revolver and began firing upon her. One ball passed through the upper part of her arm, a second entered the back, and the third passed through her heart. The woman attempted to escape from her enraged and drunken husband, running into the main part of the house and into the hall, where she fell dead near the front door. Mrs. Warren who had gone to the door to quell the disturbance came near being struck by one of the bullets fired by the infuriated Negro, the ball lodging in the door panel where she was standing.

As she appeared in the doorway and commanded the Negro to stop he elevated his revolver. She stepped a side

and closed the door. Had she remained in the doorway the ball would have passed through her. The Negro denies shooting at her, but claims the bullet was aimed at his wife.

The remains of the murdered woman were taken to the Dyer undertaking shop to be prepared for burial.

Curious throngs of persons both white and black visited the undertaker's shop until a late hour in the night to view the body of the dead woman, and it was with difficulty that the undertaker controlled the visitors.

Coroner Egemann empanelled a jury and held an inquest over the remains. The jury returning a verdict in accordance to the above facts.

Whittaker after the shooting effected his escape. The county and city officials went in search of the murderer, but were unable to locate him, owing to false reports. About 11 o'clock at night Whittaker telephoned to the city officials that he would surrender. City Marshall Dan Patterson went out to the Helm place and found Whittaker at the gate waiting his arrival. The prisoner was then brought into the city and lodged in jail.

Whittaker after surrendering expressed fear of being mobbed and wanted to be taken to Louisville for safe keeping, but Marshall Patterson assured him there would be no danger of a mob and he would be taken care of.

The Grand Jury which is now in session will indict the wife murderer, and trial will probably take place during the present term of Circuit Court.

### PAYING THE PENALTY.

Elizabethtown has saloons, this is the result, read:

A cold-blooded, premeditated murder occurred in this city at the house of Mr. Charles T. Warren Saturday night, when Henry Whittaker, while under the influence of liquor, deliberately shot and instantly killed his wife, Susan Whittaker, because she refused to live with him. Elizabethtown Mirror.

And yet some men will say that local option is a farce, and about the same condition of affairs exists without saloons as with them. That above is just one of the many cases to illustrate the degradation wrought by saloons upon any community. Below is a clipping from the Elizabethtown News which goes further to illustrate this point:

"Saturday was a red letter day in the Police Court. There were nineteen arrests, nine for vice playing, one for the destruction of property, two for running houses on the streets, three for drunkards, two for swearing on the streets, one for carrying a revolver and one for murder. The city has been comparatively quiet since Christmas, and the outbreak Saturday day was a surprise to the city officials."

This is the penalty Elizabethtown is paying for an open saloon, which Cloverport will pay if the voters of this good little town close the saloon to enter within her gates. But we have too much respect to the intelligence, the manhood, the Christian fellowship of the beloved city to think that the saloon will be legally invited here.

Photo Courtesy The Breckinridge News  
Wednesday, March 14, 1906

The Breckinridge News lobbied against the admission of saloons at Cloverport citing the many troubles in Elizabethtown.

The murderer is another monument to whiskey. Through all the family disaffection, Whitaker had been able to control his anger, and would have done so again had it not been for his insane state of intoxication.

The examining trial of Whitaker was held before Police Judge Fletcher Irwin yesterday morning. The defendant did not take the stand, neither did he offer any other testimony. The evidence was overwhelmingly against him, and he was held over to the grand jury.

The Commonwealth witnesses were instructed to appear before the grand jury yesterday evening to testify in the case. Although no information has been obtained in regard to the action of the grand jury, it is safe to say the prisoner will be indicted for willful malicious and premeditated murder.

Reprinted in its entirety from the Tuesday, June 12, 1906 edition of the Elizabethtown News

## LIFE SENTENCE

### Henry Whittaker Gets Long Term for Wife Murder

#### *Story of the Crime and Evidence Heard on the Trial*

After several hours deliberation the jury returned a verdict of guilty fixing the punishment of confinement in the penitentiary for life. A number of the jury were for hanging.

The killing occurred on March 3 last and was one of the most blood-curdling crimes ever committed in our town. The negro filled up on whiskey that day and going to the residence of Mr. W.T. Warren, where his wife was cooking, deliberately shot her to death in the presence of Mrs. Warren and children, his victim attempting to flee and screaming for help.

The defense pleaded insanity, claiming the deed was done under influence of an insane and irresistible impulse, prompted by jealousy, drunkenness and an intense love for the woman who was his wife and with whom he had had domestic troubles.

#### THE TESTIMONY

Mrs. V.H. Churchill was the first called for the prosecution and testified that about 3 o'clock she saw Whittaker go to the front of the Warren residence and ring doorbell. He did not get in and went away. In fifteen or twenty minutes he came back met his wife in the alley and talked to her. In an hour or more he again returned and went in the back way. Witness heard two shots and screams, but did not at time realize what was going on.

Mrs. C.T. Warren—Heard two shots, but did not realize what the reports were. Opened dining room door leading from hallway, saw a man standing in kitchen door opening into dining room. Mattie Whittaker was standing near table in dining room. She threw up her hands and said, "O! Mrs. Warren help me." The man fired again into her back. Witness stamped her foot and ordered the man to desist. He raised his pistol; witness stepped back and closed the door, when a fourth shot struck the door. Witness could not swear to the man who did the shooting. The wounded woman died immediately. Mrs. Warren had been home only about 10 minutes when the affair occurred. The woman had been cooking at Warren's two days.

Charles Warren saw the dead woman about ten minutes after the shooting. She seemed to have been dead when she fell, perhaps never moving after she struck the floor.

Charles Calloway (colored) was milking at Warren's barn, heard two shots and saw man run by, but could not recognize him. It was about dark.

Jim Parrot (colored) stated that Whittaker and his wife had had trouble and had been separated. Saw the corpse with bullet hole through breast, supposed to have entered in the back and passed through the body.

Marshall Dan Patterson—Arrested Whittaker after the shooting. He told witness he had killed his wife, that he did it because was untrue to him. He seemed to fear being mobbed, but was assured protection.

James Linton was with Patterson and heard admissions of Whittaker.

Felix Wise saw Whittaker, about 3 or 4 o'clock that day. Told witness the trouble between him and his wife was not settled. Whittaker was drinking. There had been trouble between him and his wife.

Judge W.W. Barry—Whittaker and wife had been separated. Whittaker came to witness while Police Judge and asked for a warrant for his wife for bigamy. She was arrested. Later Whittaker came back and said the woman had not done exactly right, but he loved her and wanted to get her to come back and live with him, saying he would treat her right. The woman afterwards did come back to him. Witness said he believed when Whittaker was drinking he had less sense than any other Negro he ever saw.

George Wilson (colored)—Took washed clothes to Warren's that evening. Saw Whittaker coming down the stairs, saw him walking around in the dining room with right hand in coat pocket.

A.F. Dyer, undertaker, prepared the body for burial. One ball entered the back passing through the breast, one through the arm and one struck the fingers.

Ben Perry corroborated Mr. Dyer.

The prosecution here rested, and the defendant took the stand for himself. He related his family troubles with the deceased; said she drank, stayed out late at night, took up with other men. Defendant said he drank about a pint of whiskey on the evening of the shooting, was incensed and crazed over his troubles and could not resist the impulse to shoot her. Said he had once received an injury about the head and sometimes his mind was wrong, that he didn't know what he was doing when he killed his wife.

Henry Trible (colored)—Said Whittaker came to his house just after the shooting, acted strange and seemed beside himself, both drunk and crazy. On cross-examination said he thought defendant must have been crazy or he would not have given himself up to officers after the killing.

Clarence Whittaker (colored) and Georg Whittaker (colored) stated that defendant loved his wife devotedly, that she gave him much trouble, and he seemed losing his mind for some time before the shooting.

Drs. Gray, English and Miller were sworn on the possibility of insanity without delusion.

K.L. Roer said defendant came to his house after shooting, was very drunk had no sense.

Mike Skaggs stated same.

# PRESERVATION OF LOCAL HISTORY FOUND IN RECORD OUTSIDE AREA

ORIGINAL SOURCE EXISTS NO LONGER

From Collins Historical Sketches of Kentucky

**1850**

Aug. 15- The Elizabethtown "Register" records the finding, among the sands of Rolling Fork, 12 miles from that place, of the thigh bone of a human being, which measures in cubic inches six times the size of the thigh bone of a common man. A physician calculates the height of the giant of other days at 12 or 13 ft.

The treasured pages of a 1850 Elizabethtown Register are nowhere to be found in 2011 and the news worthy discovery of the remains of a giant man in Hardin County exist only in the pages of one of the works of early state historian, Mason County Court Judge Lewis Collins and his son, Richard H. Collins.

Sources like this, while not the primary source, are important for the preservation of history. Self proclaimed historians, like Lewis Collins, often become the only link to the past after the passage of time. Who would have known John James Audubon (of the firm Audubon and Frazier) the greatest ornithologist in the world was one of Elizabethtown's earliest merchants if not for Lewis Collins?

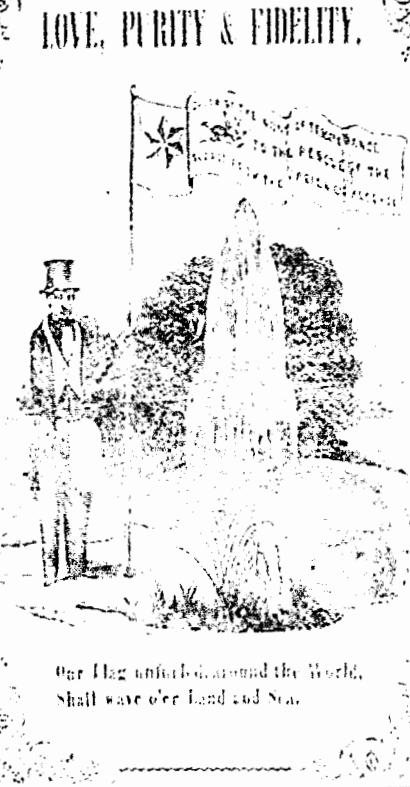
## THE MISSION IS THE SAME

The Hardin County Historical Society exists to study, preserve, and disseminate information about the history of Hardin County. Judge Collins devoted both time and personal fortune to the study, preservation, and dissemination of history. As local amateur historians, a level of personal dedication is also required of you if Hardin County History is to be enjoyed in the years to come.

## SOCIETY ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE NOW PAYABLE - \$10.00 PER MEMBER

Please remit to Treasurer, Meranda Caswell either by mail at Hardin County Historical Society, Post Office Box 381, Elizabethtown, KY 42702 or at January's quarterly meeting. Make your checks payable to the Hardin County Historical Society and be sure to write member's name and 2011 fee in the memo line.

Articles for the quarterly newsletter, Bits and Pieces of Hardin County History, are accepted for publication from interested members. Please submit any articles and photos to Susan McCrobie by email at [susanmccrobie@gmail.com](mailto:susanmccrobie@gmail.com) or by U.S. mail at 171 Bobby Street, Elizabethtown, KY 42701.



Below: Wednesday, July 6, 1859 ad from the Elizabethtown Democrat announcing local meeting of Sons of Temperance.

## ELIZABETHTOWN DIVISION No. 29. Sons of Temperance.

Meets every Monday night at their Hall in said Seminary.

OFFICERS:	
E. H. HARRIS	W. P. R. B. WOOD A. R. S.
M. SWARTZ	J. H. C. McKEAN CO. S.
F. C. DUNN	J. J. C. HAYS A. C.
M. ARTHUR	J. F. M. GREGORY J. S.
W. G. HARRIS R. S.	J. FOX S. GRAY O. S.

## ELIZABETHTOWN MEN OPPOSE ILLS OF DRINK

Many Americans, including local Elizabethtown residents, worried that increasingly immoderate drinking ruined health, disrupted families and fostered irreligious behavior. To counter these social ills, men joined organizations that encouraged temperance.

One of the first such American groups was the Sons of Temperance. In 1842, founders organized the Sons in New York "to reform drunkards and to prevent others from becoming drunkards." As part of an initiation ceremony, every new member swore "NO BROTHER SHALL MAKE, BUY SELL OR USE AS A BEVERAGE ANY SPIRITUOUS OR MALT LIQUORS WINE OR CIDER." The organization had secret rituals, signs, passwords, hand grips, regalia and also acted as an insurance company.



# Message From The President

It is the true office of history to represent the events themselves, together with the counsels, and to leave the observations and conclusions thereupon to the liberty and faculty of every man's judgment.

- Francis Bacon

Greetings! I hope the chilly weather of late finds all of you having experienced the warmth of family and friends over the recent holiday season.

A new year brings new opportunities and challenges for all, and our Society should be excited. We will be handing out the first Mary Jo Jones /HCHS Scholarship (our third annual award). We will have a quartet of wonderful speakers (starting with a great one this month!). We will be assisting in the recognition of the sesquicentennial of our Civil War. And we will attempt to "jump start" our committees. Regardless, it is my hope that we have a wonderful year of exploring our mutual interest and love.

To kick start our year, we offer a speaker with a true local connection. David Toczek, an Elizabethtown resident and graduate of Western Kentucky University, has had an active interest in photography for over 25 years. An artist whose works have appeared in the Kentucky State Capitol Rotunda and Senate Offices (even the Kentucky First Lady's office), David will be here to speak about his newest book, *Shaker Village: 50th Anniversary of the Restoration* (Acclaim Press, 2010). Written as a tribute to one of Kentucky's most valuable historic treasures, these 260 colored pictures tell a great story of a wonderful lifestyle and culture from our past.

I look forward to seeing you on January 24<sup>th</sup> to begin a great year, and bring a friend!

-Jeff Lanz

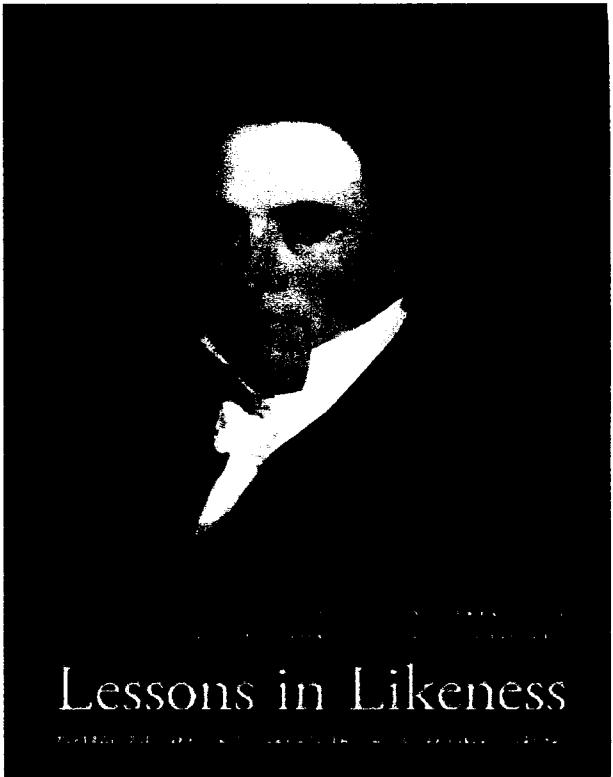
## BOOK REVIEW

"Lessons in Likeness: Portrait Painters in Kentucky and The Ohio River Valley, 1802-1920," includes wonderful illustrations of the faces of men and women who graced the frontier of Kentucky ever captured on canvas and paper.

The author attempts to explore art history in Kentucky and the Ohio Valley and events that influenced the painter and subject, with works now part of the extensive portrait collection owned by the Filson Historical Society and a few well-selected additions of notable popularity found elsewhere.

While these portraits themselves captured the faces and events of affluent Kentuckians, there was great disappointment in discovering the omission of the works of one of Kentucky's most talented daughters from an old and prosperous family whose eventful life was every bit as extraordinary as her work. This artist, none other than Katherine Helm (1857-1937), with portraits of state and national significance, is not included in this proclaimed comprehensive study of local painters. Her portraits of well-known figures such as First Lady, Mary Todd Lincoln, painted in 1925, that hangs in the White House; Kentucky Governor John LaRue Helm that hangs in the Kentucky Historical Society Governor's Gallery at Frankfort; and Confederate States President Jefferson Davis, painted in 1903, a part of the Confederate Memorial Hall Collection in New Orleans, Louisiana as well as their Confederate General Randolph Lee Gibson painting done in 1899. Helm is one of the area's great artists and was invited to show some of her work in the Kentucky Building at the 1906 World's Fair held in St. Louis, Missouri as her poses were reported to be easy-without stiffness, the flesh tints true to life and her attention to detail remarkable.

Regionally speaking, when can we expect Volume 2: Lessons in Likeness to pick up where the author left off as you have only whet the appetite with a wonderfully illustrated stroll though Kentucky history and a who's who of artist and subject.



### Lessons in Likeness

Author: Estill Curtis Pennington

\$50.00 Cloth

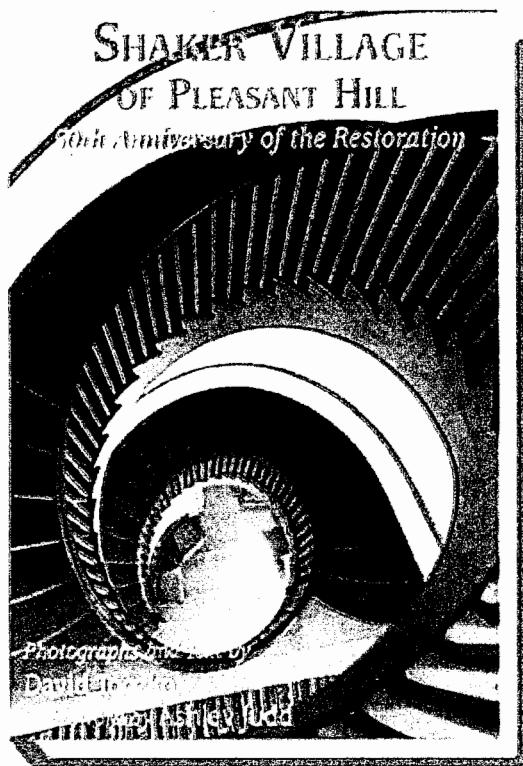
Publisher: The University Press of Kentucky

Publication Date: November 26, 2010

ISBN: 978-0-8131-2612-8

151 color photos, 3 illustrations, 1 map • 256 pages

# Historical Society announces next meeting



David Toczko's New Release

The Hardin County Historical Society will meet Monday evening, January 24, 2011, 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 \$8.50 per person. Call Judy French at 735-9698 or email [jmfrench9@windstream.net](mailto:jmfrench9@windstream.net) by Friday, Jan., 21st, for dinner reservations; later reservations for the meal cannot be guaranteed.

The dinner is followed by an incredible photographic tribute by long-time resident of Elizabethtown and commercial photographer, David Toczko, to *the 50th Anniversary of one of Kentucky's restored historic treasures, Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill.*

Join us as Toczko shares with us a pictorial walking tour of the Village across four seasons and nearly every time of day found in his new commemorative book on Shaker Village.

Enjoy his signature style of photography that showcase the historic structures, lifestyles, architecture, culture and scenic beauty found at Shaker Village.

Don't miss this chance to sit back and enjoy the visual and emotional impact Toczko delivers as you tour Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill through the lens of a master photographer.

ELIZABETHTOWN, KY 42702  
POST OFFICE BOX 381  
HARDIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY