

Early Education in the County

BLAB SCHOOLS, SCHOLARS, AND LEADERS RECALLED

By Susan McCrobie, newsletter editor

Records of schools are few and far between in the early history of Hardin County. In the decades prior to the Civil War, in some instances the community's church also served as the schoolhouse.

Along Clear Creek, a little log chapel, completed in 1810, served the congregation of Saint Clare for about thirty-five years before a new building of fired bricks took its place, some two miles down the road in the valley at Colesburg.

The 1850 Hardin County, Kentucky census lists deaf, dumb, blind, and insane (including age categories for deaf and dumb and distinctions between white and colored persons,) names of pensioners for Revolutionary or military services, the number of persons employed in each of six classes of industry and one of occupation, the number in school and the number in family over 20 who could read & write. That 1850 census lists a 50-year-old Joseph Ryan as a school teacher. He was one of twenty school teachers listed in that census. All of the teachers were men.

JOSEPH RYAN

Joseph Ryan was born in Virginia on December 19, 1790 and his parents and siblings relocated to

Kentucky after his arrival.

Thomas Washington, M.D., informs the public that he has established an institution for classical literature at Otter Creek Meeting House, 1 miles from Howel's Sulpher Spring and 11 miles from Elizabethtown, Hardin Co., Ky. This institution will have for its object, the promotion of literature and science, the gradual development of the mind and the strengthening of its powers, not by superficial reading but calling forth exertion of the reasoning faculties to all the subjects of study. This school will be divided into 3 departments the Introductory, Junior, and Senior. Boarders will be boarded at the house of A. Lewis. Teaching to begin on Monday, January 6, 1834.

*-Western Sentinel
Friday, December 27, 1833*

His father, James Ryan, owned and operated a fulling mill on the Beech Fork in Washington County. During the War of 1812, James Ryan was a Private in Captain William Sebree's Company, Boswell's Regiment, Kentucky Detached Militia from March 29, 1813 to September 29, of that same year.

James Ryan was a neighbor and good friend of Richard Berry, Sr. He was named one of the administrator of Berry's estate in Berry's last will and testament. Richard Berry, Sr. was the guardian of Nancy Hanks and it is likely that both James and his son, Joseph, attended the marriage of Nancy to Thomas Lincoln in Washington County.

Like the Lincolns, Joseph Ryan and his bride, moved to Hardin County after their marriage on November 12, 1816. A mere sixteen days passed after the Ryan's wedding bond was recorded in Washington County before the couple made a deed in Hardin County, recorded in Deed Book F, Pages 73-74 of the Hardin County Clerk's Office, for purchase of 270 acres more or less situated on Clear Creek, a branch of the Rolling Fork,

ISAAC KURTZ

In the Southern Census District of Hardin County during 1850 a thirty-one year-old Isaac Krutz is listed as a schoolteacher. Krutz taught at Rainesville and school was held in the Presbyterian Church. Kurtz also served as one of the elders of that congregation.

The community of Rainesville took its name from a well-respected landowner in the area, Mr. John Ashley Raine, Sr.

While the schoolteacher, school/church house, and community are long-forgotten, a glimpse of life in the area has been brought to life in the study of letters written home by Union soldiers stationed at Camp Nevin and subsequent search through county records to verify statements made some 150 years ago.

A look at the deeds recorded in the Hardin County Clerk's office does indeed show John A. Raine and his wife once owned the old school/church house at Rainesville. They sold it to the church elders on June 25, 1852 per deed book Y, page 600. In the margins of that deed is a notation that Isaac Kurtz bought the property on December 2, 1881.

That school/church house, according to a sketch in a letter written by Alpheus S. Bloomfield of the 1st Ohio Light Artillery, was located just north of the cemetery [Red Mills] and across the Turnpike from the burying grounds. All of the area was part of Camp Nevin in the fall of 1861.

You may recall that Camp Nevin was named for David Nevin, a strong southern sympathizer and owner of the lands. Nevin

actually had a contract for deed, dated July 1859, on the 430 acres from John Ashley Raine, Sr. David Nevin died before the land could be paid off and transferred. Nevin's brother, Frank, from Detroit Michigan was assigned the lands after his brother's death and completed the terms of the sale and a deed was made to him on December 15, 1865 by Raine and recorded in the Hardin County Clerk's deed book 5, page 585.

Schoolteacher Kurtz, Raine, and southern sympathizer Nevin are all buried at Red Mills Cemetery on the banks of the Nolin River a few hundred feet from a once highly populated and active area.

There is much to be made of the life and career of John Ashley Raine, Sr. He was born in Virginia in 1817 and moved to Hardin County, Kentucky at age five. He learned the trade of a shoemaker and also that of a hatter but in 1838 was elected the office of Hardin County coroner and in 1840 became deputy sheriff for three years. In 1845 he began selling goods and farming in the county, a career he enjoyed for seventeen years.

During the period of war he engaged in a wholesale book and shoe business in Louisville and while his oldest son served in the Confederate army and was killed in the battle of Mansfield, LA while commanding the Eighth Texas Regiment.

In 1868, he returned to Hardin County, locating at Sonora and in 1872 was appointed postmaster of that town.

His first wife, Mahala Bland, and his second wife, Sarah Ann Bland, were the daughters of William Bland. His third wife was Mrs. Sallie Van Cleave Strange, the widow of Rev. J. H.

~ 1850 ~ Hardin County Teachers

NAME.....	AGE
John Dowling.....	65
Lafayette Hewitt	18
Joseph Ryan	50
John H. McEwen	22
Elijah Munford	66
Phillip B. Troutman.....	53
John Pearson.....	63
William Osbourn	21
Jno. H. Wiseheart	42
Benjamin Harris	63
Ransom A. Pearman.....	27
Henry P. Williams.....	33
Daniel Brackett	56
Samuel Handley	27
John Gardiner.....	41
Isaac Kurtz.....	31
Jacob M. Hammond	26
John Richardson.....	33
N.P. Williams	20
Robert Floyd	47

The oldest teacher was age 66, the youngest age 18 with the average age for a school teacher being 40 years.

There were 20 schools in the county.

Forty years later, in 1890, there were 107 school houses in Hardin County.

Strange.

Raine was the father of ten children.



Courtesy of the Lancaster County, Pennsylvania Historical Society

Union soldiers at work clearing ground for encampment near the Adam Monin House at Camp Nevin near Nolin, Kentucky in October 1861. Soldier correspondents made many sketches during the period of war for publication in northern newspapers including two more famous publications like Harper's Weekly and Leslie's Illustrated.

Soldier Correspondents Add Depth to County History

By Susan McCrobie, newsletter editor

The Lancaster County, Pennsylvania Regiment arrived by train at Camp Nevin, from their brief stay at Louisville, on October 24, 1861. Their six-week stay was their first real taste of army life.

79th PA, Co. G Lieut. William Wilberforce Nevin, no relation to David Nevin, was just one of many soldier correspondents that gave the folks back home a look at war with the Southern States and life away from home.

Letters published in newspapers and ones shared by families within the community and preserved 150 years after they were written give insight to Hardin County during the period of the Civil War through an impartial eye.

Oscar C. M. Caines, 70th PA, wrote "our present location is about fifty miles on rising ground, dry, and of course healthy. [Once the rainy season set in the letters home must have changed drastically with

description of the landscape.]

A correspondent with General Negley's Brigade on November 9, 1861 wrote, "The camping ground of the Union forces embraces an area of about fifteen miles, and our pickets extend in the form of a crescent, the line of which is about seventeen miles. The country is exceedingly level; not a hill can be seen as far as the eye reaches. The soil is fertile, and yields plentiful crops of wheat and corn, which is all being destroyed by the army. How thankful the people of Lancaster county ought to be whose broad acres and beautiful fields lie undisturbed by the ravages of war..."

That correspondent also wrote about heavy clouds rolling in at seven o'clock after a beautiful warm day and a storm of unparalleled fury that ended with lightning striking two Lieutenants from Chambersburg, Pennsylvania.

every progressive, wide-awake man or woman who wants to make good money with little effort. The company pays a liberal commission and we expect to have a full force of wholesale and retail agents operating in this state within a short time.

We may want you to be one of them but you must act promptly.

This may be your last opportunity.

Opportunity means "Being on the spot when the ship of success reaches port, and standing ready to insist upon taking a hand in the unloading for a share of the cargo."

TWO KINDS OF MEN

FIRST. The man who works for a salary because he will not take a chance on some new proposition that may be offered him, whereby he might make thousands of dollars while the best that he can do on a salary is three or four hundred dollars a year.

SECOND. Is the man who knows a good thing when he sees it, and who is not afraid to invest a few hundred dollars in an article that has merit, and something the people will buy if it is only shown to them.

The first is a poor man and always will be for there is no possible chance to save much money while working for a salary.

The other is prosperous and progressive, and saves more money in one year than the first can save in twenty, besides he goes and comes when he pleases and is his own boss.

If men were making \$20.00 a day there would be few who would want to change their line of business. The man who can get control of a number of counties in the Handy Attachment has a great chance to get on "easy street," as this is an article that can be sold every day in the year. A man's fortune depends on much money being made in a short time, instead of the amount made in a long time. For example, if you



Courtesy of the Hardin County History Museum

The attachment and devices included in each box sold were the fan, shoe polisher, buff wheel, emery wheel, jeweler's red, and the nickleplated attachment that adjusted to the sewing machine wheel in just seconds. They fit all sewing machines except the Wheeler & Wilson, for which the company had a special attachment that had to be requested.

make \$15,000 in thirty years, you spend it as you make it, but if you make \$15,000 in two years, you will put most of it out at interest, and in a short time will double itself.

IN EVERY HOUSE where a sewing machine is used the Handy Sewing Machine Attachments are indispensable. They are built for utility and convenience, and are easily attached and detached from the machine. For further information read the description of each attachment and the directors for using them, found on the following pages of this little booklet. Hustlers wanted in every county in the State of Kentucky to sell this article of genuine merit. Exclusive territory for sale.

Kentucky Novelty Mfg. Co., Inc.
Elizabethtown, KY

Meet Mr. E. E. Olcott

One of the five stockholders/directors in the Kentucky Novelty Manufacturing company was Mr. E.E. Olcott.

Olcott was born in the state of Indiana and employed as superintendent of the Charlestown schools before elected the first principal of the Elizabethtown Graded School, by the school's board of Trustees. The first commencement exercises of the E'town school, in June 1900, saw the graduation of Misses Carrie Showers, Lizzie Lee, Bettie Schaller, Mary Cofer, and Mr. William Bell.

The teaching staff of the school included Misses Francis Smith, Ella Jeffries, Nannie Sinclair, Katie

MENSURATION MADE EASY.

This little book should be in the hands of

EVERY TEACHER IN KENTUCKY.

It develops the subject along the right line.

25 cents to E. E. OL'COTT,
ELIZABETHTOWN, KY.
Will get it

This advertisement for educational material by Mr. Olcott appeared in the 1900 Southern School Journal. The materials were intended for the preparation of geometry in the 8th grade or first year of high school.

Sweets, Lizzie Funk, and Mrs A.H. Logsdon.

Olcott boarded with the Achilles M. Stith family while working in Elizabethtown.

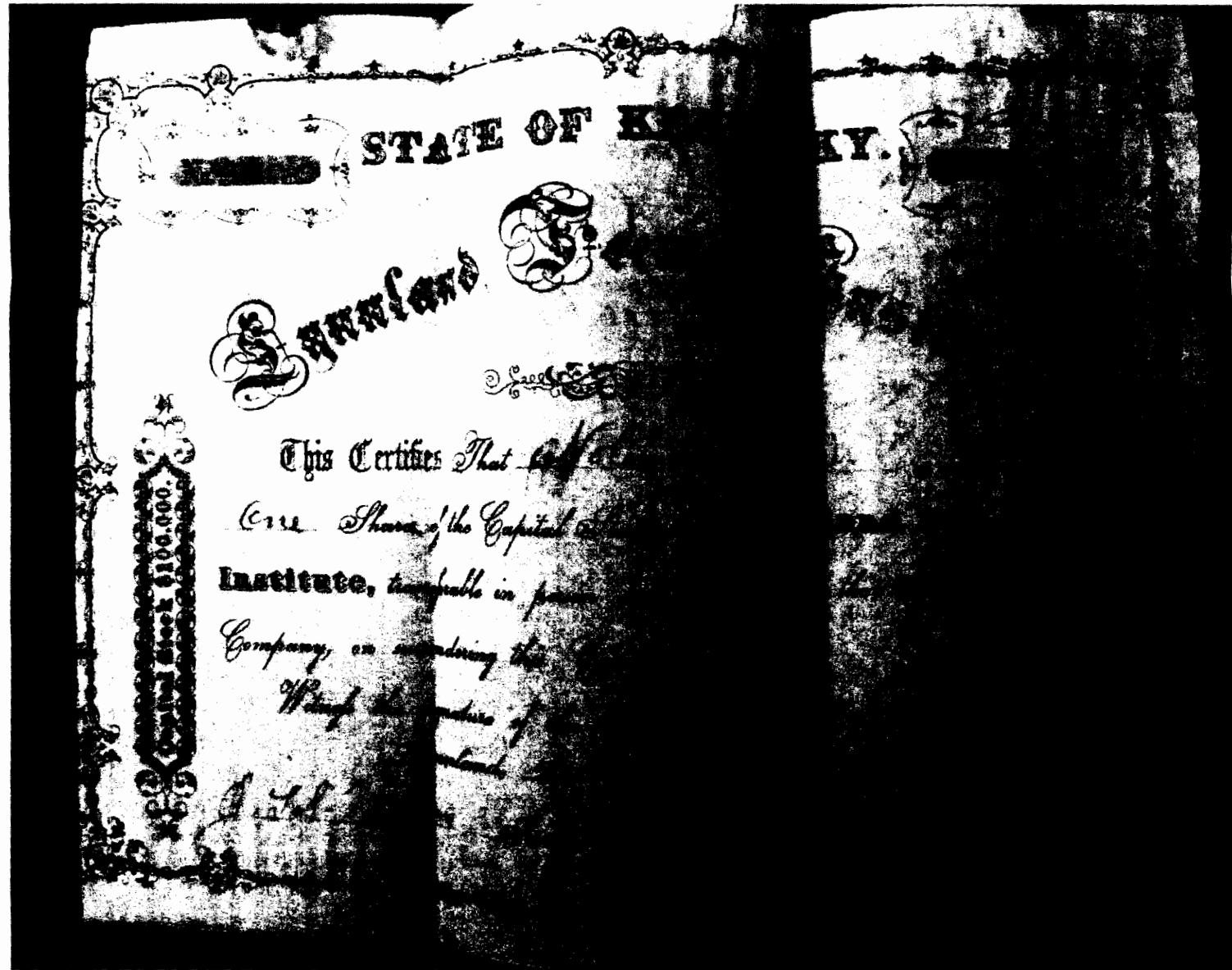
He eventually once again returned to Indiana, where his wife was also employed at a teacher.

form, your pencil and the locker key will be returned to the security guard.

After your registration and entry into the Archives Research Room, the helpful and friendly staff can guide you where the materials are located. There are binders with listings of the microfilmed records arranged in alphabetical order by the county of the State of Kentucky. There are two sets of microfilm copies in the many of these binders. One set is from the KDLA microfilm; the other set is from an outside entity that had microfilmed the records. You will write down your microfilm box numbers. Then you will retrieve these boxes from the sliding cabinets. Some microfilm boxes are 35mm, and others are 16mm. The numerical system is on the endcaps of the cabinets. The maximum quantity of microfilm to use is five boxes at a time. The time limit on the

microfilm machines is normally 30 minutes. This time limit is especially enforced when there are many people waiting to use the microfilm machines. There are about 10 microfilm machines with printers attached. There are other microfilm machines that do not have printers attached.

Microfilm can be hard to read on microfilm readers; however, some records cannot be found in existence today. For example, the actual Hardin County tax record books from 1793 to 1892 do not exist; these were destroyed. To view a copy of these books, you must view the microfilm. If there is a page to copy from the microfilm, just print that page from the microfilm machine for \$.50 per page. You will pay the copy charges inside the Archives Research Room. If you need assistance in learning how to operate the microfilm machine, the staff



Courtesy of Meranda Caswell

The Nolin Church was one of several investors in the Lynnland Female Institute. This bond was entered as evidence in a Hardin Circuit Court case brought by J. R. Gaither against the creditors of W. F. Perry, P. E. Harris, Perry & Harris, and Lynnland Institute.



Message From The President

Greetings to all members,

Happy New Year to each of you! I pray that the New Year brings you new opportunities and much joy. As I assume the role of president, I must confess I am completely dependent upon your support and involvement. Please don't hesitate to share your constructive ideas and thoughts, together this will be an awesome year.

Thanks to Judy French for leadership and active involvement in the society and community to strengthen and promote our focus. Also, a very special thanks to all that served in the role of leadership this past year. You all are commended for your outstanding efforts. Thanks.

Very special thanks to Susan McCrobie for reconsidering and continuing to publish the Bits and Pieces. Susan has a wealth or hunger for knowledge of our community and a great penmanship to share her research with us. I look forward to her quarterly Bits and Pieces. I encourage you to share your ideas and suggestion with Susan.

Our January 27th meeting is fast approaching. The presenter will be Mr. Russell Lunsford. Mr. Lunsford worked for Kentucky Government as a juvenile counselor. He is a children's book author and has published 3 in regards to history or historical figures that he is going to share with the membership. You might want to visit his website before our meeting <http://russelllunsford.com/index.html>

I am at a quandary as to handle the new responsibility, I thank you for your confidence, but I need your help. Thank you so much, TOGETHER we can have an awesome year!

-Mike Bell

Follow-up to our earlier Joseph Ryan story....

Did it strike you odd that Joseph Ryan and his wife traveled up from Colesburg during the winter of 1854 to make a deed at the county clerk's office and died a few weeks later? An older, sick man would not have made such a trip during the wet months of winter with no railroad yet built connecting Elizabethtown and Colesburg or a good road system that came years after rail service from that area of Hardin County.

Something had to have caused Ryan's health to decline quickly. A book on the Ryan Family found in the Nelson County Public Library names a killer. It was cholera.

There was a series of epidemics of cholera, with great numbers of deaths, often entire families being victims, at different periods from 1830 through the 1870s in different communities in Kentucky.

What exactly is cholera? It is an intestinal disease. The disease is a painful way to die. It is

spread through drinking water contaminated by fecal discharges of other cholera patients and causes copius and purging diarrhea, vomiting, muscle cramps and general prostration. The infected rapidly becomes dehydrated, weak, and has below normal temperatures and other horrid symptoms. Doctors of the time period told the population to avoid rotting vegetables that they believed lead to the highly infectious disease.

In some towns when cholera broke out the residents would move to the country and remain here for some time to wait for the epidemic to run its course. Obviously in the winter of 1854 cholera had visited the countryside and the hamlet of Colesburg as it claimed Ryan's life.

It is believed that Kentucky's topography filtered contaminated water into subterranean limestone cavities, which acted as a reservoir for contamination and the spreading of this highly infectious disease.