

Bits and Pieces
of Hardin County History
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SAMUEL HAYCRAFT'S LONG LOST SECOND LETTER TO

ABRAHAM LINCOLN DATED MAY 31, 1860

by R. GERALD MCMURTRY

Lincoln students have known that Samuel Haycraft (1795-1878) of Elizabethtown, Kentucky wrote a second letter to Abraham Lincoln dated May 31, 1860. However, whether or not the above mentioned letter was extant was a matter of speculation.

Now all conjecture has been put to rest. The original second letter has been acquired by recent purchase. Now the only letter missing is the first Haycraft letter addressed to Lincoln without a date. The complete list of Haycraft-Lincoln letters follows:

1. Without a date (1860)
2. May 31, 1860 (with envelope)
3. August 19, 1860
4. October 26, 1860
5. November 9, 1860 (with envelope)
6. November 13, 1860 (with envelope)

The Haycraft letters 3 through 6, including all the letters Lincoln wrote to his Elizabethtown correspondent, were published in 1963 in pamphlet form by the Elizabethtown, Kentucky, Woman's Club under the title HAYCRAFT'S HISTORY OF ELIZABETHTOWN, KENTUCKY...A SUPPLEMENT TO THE FIRST AND SECOND EDITIONS by R. Gerald McMurtry. In August 1965 LINCOLN LORE# 1530 titled "Lincoln-Haycraft Correspondence" covered the same topic.

Lincoln, who had been nominated for the presidency by the Republican National Convention at Chicago, Illinois, on May 18, 1860 and elected President of the United States on November 6, 1860 answered Haycraft's letters from Springfield, Illinois on the following dates in 1860: May 28, June 4, August 16, August 23, November 13.

Four of Lincoln's original letters to Haycraft, namely those dated June 4, August 16, August 23, and November 13, are in the Henry E. Huntington Library at San Marino, California. Unfortunately, the August 23 and November 13 letters have been mutilated. All five of the letters are available on micro-film as a part of The Abraham Lincoln Papers of the Library of Congress.

We know that Haycraft's first letter was without a date because Lincoln, in his May 28, 1860 reply to his correspondent, wrote, "Your recent letter without date is received." We also know the May 31, 1860 Haycraft letter was the second one because in his June 4, 1860 reply, Lincoln wrote, "Your second letter dated May 31st is received."

This second letter, now the property of the Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum or Fort Wayne, Indiana, will necessitate some explanation and comment. The letter is here published for the first time with the permission of Dr. Mark E. Neely, the director of the Library-Museum. (Text continues page ; photos page)

SOCIETY'S OFFICERS

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FROM THE EDITOR

We owe a great deal of thanks to R. Gerald McMurtry for his efforts in getting us the permission to use the pictures of the Haycraft-Lincoln letter in this issue. He also deserves thanks for providing us with the transcription of the letter and his informative comments. Over the years Mr. McMurtry has contributed many articles and pamphlets to our knowledge of local history and people. Hopefully he will not stop now but continue to share his great store of knowledge and information with us.

As summer is quickly approaching, we are looking forward to seeing some of you as you return "home" to Kentucky for family reunions or just for a friendly visit. When you are in Elizabethtown, stop by the Brown-Pusey House and visit our research library and make yourself at home and let whoever is working know who you are and that you are a member of the historical society.

Have a great summer and Y'ALL COME.

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE BY THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

TWO CENTURIES IN ELIZABETHTOWN AND HARDIN COUNTY, KY. 1776-1976
 by Daniel E. McClure Hard cover, illustrated, 850pp, \$31.25ppd

HISTORY OF ELIZABETHTOWN by Samuel Haycraft Sr. Written in 1869
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WHO WAS WHO IN HARDIN COUNTY This is a compilation of 170
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LAST NOTICE: If you have not renewed your membership to the
 historical society, this is the LAST issue of the quarterly that
 you will receive. Send your \$5.00 per membership to Mrs. June
 Thornberry, 128 N. Main St., Elizabethtown, Ky. 42701

ALL ORDERS FOR BOOKS MAY BE SENT TO MRS. JUNE THORNBERRY AT THE
 ABOVE ADDRESS.

COURT ORDER BOOK, HARDIN COUNTY, KY. 1796 (26 July, cont'd)

Ordered that Isom Enlow be appointed Guardian of Rebehah Larue Squire Larue Pheby Larue & Peggy Larue infant orphans of John Larue deceased who together with Robert Hodgins and Isaac Larue his securities entered into and acknowledged their bond in the penalty of five hundred pounds for the safe keeping of the said orphans estate

An account of the settlement of the sales of the Estate of William Stewart decd was returned & was ordered to be recorded

Moses Pigg produced a nomination from Benjamin Helm Gent Surveyor appointing him his Deputy who was examined and reported duly qualified & took the oath of a Surveyor

Ordered that Ben Helm Adam Miller & Nicholas Miller and George Berry or any three of them being first sworn do view the most convenient way for a road from the Courthouse to Salt River at the Buffalo Road Crosing first below the fork or mouth of the Rolling fork and make report thereof to the court

Ordered that the several persons heretofore appointed to view do severally make thier reports to the next court

On the application of Patrick Brown it is ordered that the Clerk of this Court do ifsue his warrant directed to John Melinger Philip Reed David Mellinger & George Siles who are hereby appointed Commifisioners agreeably to an act of afsembly intituled an act to afscertain the boundaries of Land & for other purposes requiring them or any two of them to attend the said Patrick to the beginning or any special place called for in an entry of four hundred acres made in the name of said Patrick Brown on Christual a south branch of the Rolling fork of Salt River then and there to do such other thing or things as by the said recited act they are authorised and required to do

Ordered that James Nourse John Paul Francis Pairpoint & John Creamer or any three of them being forst sworn do view the most convenient way for a road from said Pairpoints Mill to the widow Countremans old plantation and make report thereof to the Court

Ordered that Robert Hodgins James Nourse Isaac Larue Samuel Haycraft & Stephen Rawlings or any three of them being first sworn do view the most convenient way for a road from the Court house to Mr. Hodgins's Old Mill and make report thereof to the next court

Ordered that Daniel Linder be appointed overseer of the road from the Courthouse to Isaac Morisons and that the Tithables on the Vally Creek waters below Mr Helm's and Mr Haycrafts and those on the waters of Nolin to William Stuarts old plantation and those on Rudes Creek and Capt Morrison plantation do assist him in clearing and keeping said Road in repair

Pursuant to an act of afsembly intituled an act for prosefsioning Lands &c it is ordered that this County be laid off in districts one district to begin at the mouth of the Beech fork thence up Younger Creek to the Sulpher lick Thence to the head of Middle Creek and down the same to the mouth and down Nolin to Green River and up Green River to Green County Line and with said line to Washington County line and with the same to the Rolling fork and down said fork to the beginning

2nd Another district to begin at the aforesaid Beginning & to run with said line to Green River and down the same to Rough Creek and up said Creek to the head thence to the mouth of Dow run and up the Ohio Salt River & the Rolling fork to the Beginning

3rd District to begin at the mouth of Dow run to extend with the line of the above district to the Head of Rough Creek Thence to the Head of panther Creek and down the same to the mouth and down Green River to the Ohio and up the same to the Beginning Another district to be bounded by and between Green River Panther and Rough Creek

Ordered that James Nourse John Paul Benjamin Wright and Thomas Mc Intire be appointed comifsioners of the first district and George Helm Stephen Cleaver Robert Barnet Benjamin Helm and Charles Helm be appointed Comifsioners of the 2nd district. William Cumpstalk William Hardin David Glenn & Mastin Vanreade be appointed commifsioners in the 3rd district. Benjamin Fields Philip Taylor John Leeper & Joseph Arnold be appointed Comifsioners of the fourth district

David Crady is appointed Constable in the room of Isaac Goodin who took the oath of a Constable and together with Bladin Ashby his security entered into and acknowledged their bond conditioned according to Law for the faithful performance of the said office

Ordered that Samuel Haycraft Commifsioner of Tax be allowed 3 dollars for three days in taking list of Land after the General return

Ordered that Court be adjourned till Court in Course

Robert Hodgins

ELIZABETHTOWN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES 1807

At a board of Trustees held at the house of Samuel Stevenson in Elizabeth Town on the 2nd day September 1807 Present James Crutcher Joseph Chalfin Robert Bleakley & Daniel Waide Gentlemen

Ordered that Joseph Chalfin be and he is hereby appointed chairman to this board

Ordered that Joseph Chalfin pay James Crutcher two dollars and fifty cents for a book for the use of this board out of the money collected by direction of this board

Ordered that Robert Bleakley be appointed overseer to the streets of this town

Ordered that this board do meet the first saturday in every month

Ordered that this board be adjourned until the time in course
Attest Saml Stevenson clk Joseph Chalfin ch

At a board of Trustees held at James Crutchers Store House in Elizabeth Town on November 18th 1807 Present James Crutcher Benjamin Hardin Joseph Chalfin Robert Bleakley & Daniel Waide Gents

Ordered that James Pearcifull be allowed twenty dollars for filling the clay hole on the publick square

Ordered that this board be adjourned

Attest Saml Stevenson ckl

Joseph Chalfin ch

REMEMBER Your dues for 1984 are past due. If you have not paid them by the next issue, you will NOT receive this quarterly. Send your \$5.00 per member to Mrs. June Thornberry, 128 N. Main St. Elizabethtown, Ky. 42701

HISTORY OF SEVERNS VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH (continued)

In January 1802, received twenty-two members and in February received thirteen more.

August 28, 1802 the rivival came to a close with addition of 101 members among them Issac Hodgen, John Hodgen, James Haycraft, and Josiah Dodge, all of whom became preachers...

During the remainder of the year, the church had much distress, in consequence of some of the young members falling back into the world. The prevailing vices that seemed to infest the church, or rather that disorderly portion, was drinking, swearing, attending horse races, fighting, etc. But amidst those discouraging scenes, there was a band that stood faithfully to their posts, and up to March, 1803, they closely attended to the church. The most refractory were excluded, and some almost desperate cases were reclaimed, and the church of Christ stood firm and unshaken.

On the twelfth day of March, 1803, the church being strong in numbers for that period, it was concluded to form a new church at Nolin, and all those who chose to join the new constitution(105 members), left for that purpose, thus reducing the old Valley church to forty-seven members.

March 25th. It appears that a serious difficulty was about to arise in the little band, between several influential brethern, and a special meeting was called, and some old tried brethern were appointed a committee, who met, called the brethern before them, labored with them, and reported the matter well settled and all in fellowship again.

In May, 1803, the church obtained a letter of dismissal from Green River Association, and again joined Salem. At this time the church called Alexander McDougal to preach to them. He was the grandfather of the late Elder Alexander W. Larue, one of our most useful preachers. That devoted and highly gifted brother was called home some years since.

From 1803 to 1812 the church seemed to move on with little deviation. Some members were refractory and were excluded; some additions were occasionally made, during this time strict discipline was observed, and some members were excluded and restored morethan once.

In April, 1812, the record shows the commencement of better times. Ten members were added by experience.

In July, 1812, Duff Green was appointed clerk. (General Duff Green, late of Washington City.)

In June, 1814, James Haycraft was licensed to preach in the bounds of the church, and in March, 1815, extended to sister churches.

Up to March, 1819, the church moved on in the usual way, with occasionally an addition by baptism or letter, and was about balanced by exclusions and dismissions.

At this meeting it was discovered that the church had lost her constitution, or Articles of Faith, and brethern Anthony Vernon, William Quinn, Asahel Phillips and Samuel Abell were appointed to prepare articles and the present articles of faith were reported and adopted in June, 1819.

Long since that period, the venerable Jacob Vanmetre(the younger) informed me that the church was mistaken about losing its articles.

(To be continued)

Elizabeth Town
Hardin County Ky
May 31, 1860

Hon. A. Lincoln

Dear Sir:

I acknowledge with satisfaction the receipt of yours of 28. Inst. in reply to mine of a few days before without date.

I am very much obliged to you for correcting me in relation to your history. I was mistaken about your mother supposing her to have been Sally Llewellan instead of Nancy Hanks. I distinctly remember the Hanks family and Joseph Hanks in particular--I saw a fine stalwart son of his last year at the home of Mr. Vertrees in this County--You are right about Ben Helm being my predecessor--Jack Thomas was in that office when I entered in October 1809. he left & became clerk in Grayson County. William Fairleigh came in after I did & finished under me after I became clerk. He is now & has been since 1823 Clerk of Meade Circuit & County Courts

Mr. Ben Helm lived to be about 90 years of age & died a little over a year ago. These facts are of no importance yet they might interest you in the way of bringing up olden times. I was clerk about 35 years-- Had the start of you in the world nearly 14 years. Yet you have jumped ahead of me considerably.

From what I have heard of you for many years I do not suppose that you give yourself much play time. Yet I would think that a visit to the place of your nativity would be pleasant to you, since your letter came to hand this morning I have conversed with gentlemen who live in Hodgenville, particularly, Mr. W.B. Read, a lawyer of that place & he informs me that a portion of the building in which you first saw light & breathed Republican air yet on Knob Creek about 5 or 6 miles of Hodgenville. And a most excellent Turnpike passes near it.

I shall be 65 in August and am gradually retiring from public life. My senatorial term expires in August 1861 and I never expect to struggle for office again-- Time has dealt kindly with me tho it has whitened my head yet I enjoy a bouyancy of spirit such as would benefit a man of 30--

My great hobby for a few years past has been the cultivation of fruit. Which I have thoroughly studied and enjoy with much relish.

Excuse this intrusion upon your time. My best wishes for your prosperity.

Very truly yours
Sam l Haycraft

P.S. That you may not mistake my position I will simply say that I am an old line Clay Whig & went grades of Americanism & now Union

NOTE: When it has been impossible to decipher certain words in this letter a blank space indicates where the missing word should appear.

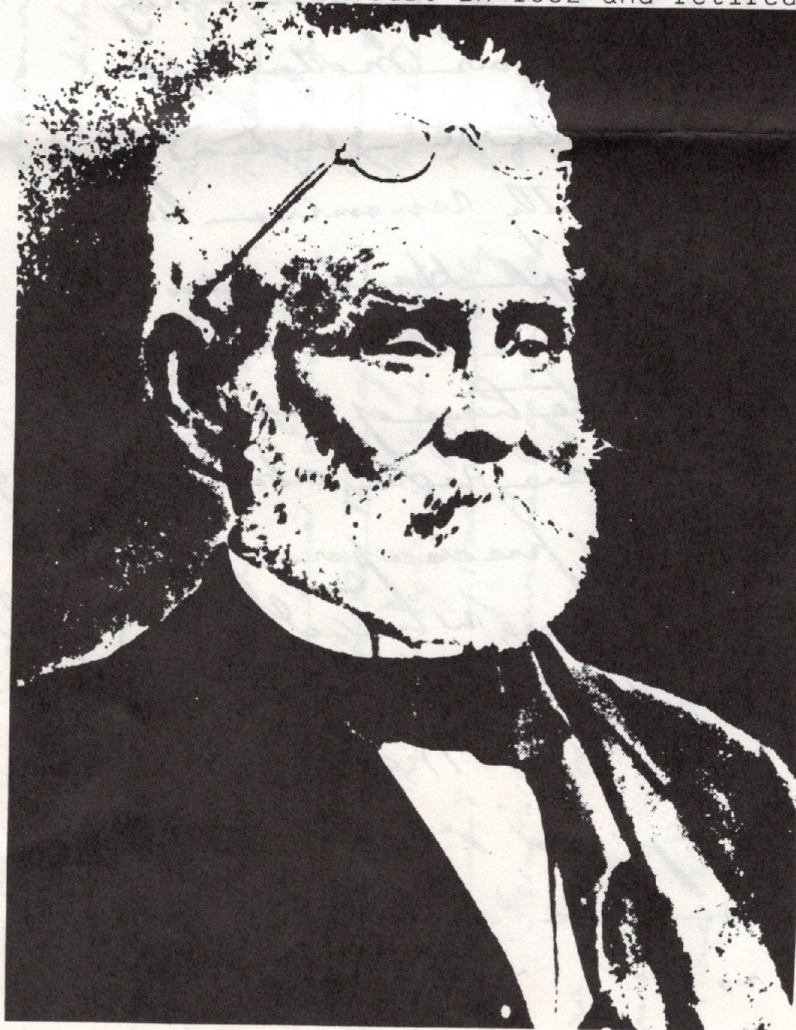
So far as this writer knows, the name of Sally Llewellan has never appeared in Haycraft's papers and only once in his HISTORY OF ELIZABETHTOWN, KENTUCKY which has been thoroughly indexed. Neither has the name appeared in other Elizabethtown histories. One cannot help but wonder if he had confused the name Sally Llewellan with that of (Sally) Bush Johnston, Lincoln's step-mother.

Mr. W.B. Read, the lawyer of Hodgenville, was in error, relative to Lincoln first seeing light and breathing Republican air on Knob Creek. To be precise, Lincoln's birthplace is three miles from the site of Hodgen's Mill located between the forks of Nolin River, three miles from the north fork, and one mile from the south fork.

However, Lincoln in his letter of June 4, 1860 addressed to Samuel Haycraft wrote, "The place on Knob Creek, mentioned by Mr. Read, I remember well, but I was not born there. As my parents have told me, I was born on Nolin, very much nearer Hodgen's Mill than the Knob Creek place is. My earliest recollection, however, is of the Knob Creek place."

Young Lincoln lived at Knob Creek approximately five years from 1811 to 1816, the year of his family's migration to Indiana.

In 1857 Haycraft was elected to the Kentucky State Senate. He was a distinguished member of that legislative body and was a strong supporter of the Union. Largely due to his efforts, the legislature appropriated funds for the erection of the Daniel Boone monument in the Frankfort cemetery. He was elected Clerk of the Circuit Court in 1862 and retired in 1868.



Samuel Haycraft
(1795-1878)

Elizabeth Town

Harden Co Ky

May 31. 1860

Hon A Lincoln

Dear Sir

I acknowledge with satisfaction
 the receipt of yours of 28. Inst. in reply
 to mine of a few days before. I am
 I am very much obliged to you for
 correcting me in relation to your history
 I was mistaken about your mother's
 name to be Mrs Sally Lewis - instead of
 Nancy Hanks - I distinctly remember the
 Hanks family - and Joseph Hanks in
 particular - I saw a fine stalwart
 of his last year at the house of Mr Vesters
 in this County - you are right about
 Dan Hays being my predecessor - Jack
 Thomas was in the office when I went
 in October 1809. he left & became
 Clerk of Grayson. - Mr. Fair
 came in after I did & in
 under me after I became Clerk.
 He is now & has been in the office

Massachusetts & Cong. Conts -
The Ben. Hall lived to be about 90
years of age & died a little over a year
ago - These facts are of no importance
yet they might lead you in the way
of bringing up olden times. I was dead
about 35 yrs - Had the start of you
in the world near 14 yrs. yet you
have jumped ahead of me, considerably
From what I have heard of you for
many years I do not suppose that you
give yourself much play time. yet
it would be that a visit to the
country of your nativity would be pleasant
if some time you should come to hand.
This morning I have conversed with gentlemen
who live in Hodgsonville. particularly
Mr. W.D. Reed a lawyer of that place
& he informs me that a portion of the
C. & N. R. on which you first saw light
& the Republican line is yet visible
in Knob. Creek - about 5 or 6 miles of

Hodgsonville - and a most excellent
Turnpike road passes near it -

I shall be 65 in August and
am gradually retiring from public life
My anatomical lesson expires in August 1861.
as I never expect to struggle for office
again - Time has ~~not~~ ^{been} kindly with
me and the it has whetted my legs
yet I enjoy a longevity of spirits
as would befit a man of 60 -

My great hobby for a few years past
has been the cultivation of fruits - which
I have thoroughly studied - and enjoy with
much relish -

Excuse this intrusion upon your
time. My best wishes for your prosperity
Very truly yours

Sam. Maycraft

P.S. That you may not mistake my
position I would simply say that I am an
old line Blay Whig - & want the U.
grades of Americanism & how learned



Saml. Haycraft

*Hon Abram Lincoln
Springfield
Illinois*

The photograph of Samuel Haycraft's original letter to Abraham Lincoln dated May 31, 1860 is used with the permission of the Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum. The name "Saml. Haycraft" written on the envelope is in the handwriting of Abraham Lincoln.

OLDEST COUNTY SCHOOL RECORD

The oldest school record extant in Hardin County is an account of a trustee's meeting on April 23, 1779, at the home of James Crutcher, Gentleman in Elizabethtown. The meeting was called for the purpose of contracting with someone to locate and procure a title to six thousand acres of land granted to Hardin Academy by the General Assembly of Kentucky on December 22, 1798.

Other records give information on there being formal instruction for the children in the pioneer community of Elizabethtown soon after the first forts were built in 1780. A log house had been built by subscription about 1800.

The first brick schoolhouse was erected in 1818. In 1825 when a second land grant was made to the county "seminary" four thousand acres of the six thousand grant were given to a contractor to build an addition to the first brick building.

Beginning with the inception of the Hardin Academy in 1799, there was a school of secondary or junior college rank in Elizabethtown until about 1910 when the free public high schools came into existence.

G.W.

1907 TAXES

According to the tax assessor's books for 1907 those citizens paying the largest amount of taxes in the county were J. F. French, H. C. Hays, T. S. Gardner, Rufus Holbert, A. S. Hamilton, H. S. Gardner, Marion Hoover, G. H. Gardner, Mrs. Matilda Sprigg, R. E. Settle, B. A. Stith estate, W. H. Pickerill estate, S. G. McDougal, Rod Warfield, F. C. Parepoint, C. Z. Aud, H. A. Sutzer, Silas English, J. V. Prewitt, John L. Helm, Georgia B. Hays, W. H. Fowler, J. M. Crawford, Henry Crawford, R. L. Buchanan, W. A. Burkhart, Seth Botts, John H. Hart, G. T. Jones, W. C. Montgomery, Taylor Watkins, Lewis T. Walker, Dr. F. P. Strickler, J. W. Smith, E. A. Smith, John Woelpert, D. H. Richards, Josiah Phillips, Mary T. Upton, B. D. Skees, B. G. Beavers, W. H. Bland, John Brashear, P. H. Beeler and Mrs. Mary E. Ash.

G.W.

EARLY EXPLORERS OF HARDIN COUNTY AREA

According to the Junge Mather Papers the earliest explorers in what became Hardin County were Squire Boone from 1778 to 1780 according to a deposition he made in September 1797 in Elizabethtown; Edward Bulger and Silas Harlin, both of whom were killed in the Battle of Blue Licks in August, 1782; John Cowan and David Glen, together with Joseph Early, according to depositions they made in 1796; Thomas Harbeson, in company with Samuel Johnson and James Brown (brother of Col. Patrick Brown) stated that the area was their usual hunting area; Abraham Haptonstall deposed in 1802 that he explored the area in company with Hubbard Taylor, Hancock Lee, and others in June, 1780.

In July, 1776, eight Virginians came by boat down the Ohio to the mouth of Salt River on an exploring trip. They were Samuel Pearman, Francis Shance, William Severn, John Ross, Robert Sweney, Samule Brinton, Robert Brinton and William Woodward.

The following early explorers settled in the area: John Severn, Elisha Freeman, Thomas McCarty, Andrew Hynes and Banam Shaw.

G.W.

