

A Quarterly Publication
of the Hardin County
Historical Society, a
Non-Profit Organization
Originated in 1931

Bits and Pieces

OF HARDIN COUNTY HISTORY

www.hardinkyhistoricalsociety.org

VOL. XXV NO 4

ISSN 1536-1667

WINTER 2011-12

COOKBOOK TREASURE TROVE FOR MORE THAN INGREDIENTS ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-YEAR OLD PUBLICATION LIVES UP TO ITS NAME WITH A LOOK AT BUSINESS

By Susan McCrobie, newsletter editor

In 1882-83, the ladies of Methodist Episcopal Church South of Elizabethtown offered to the public a little book of tried and true recipes. Elizabethtown women have always had the name of being excellent cooks, and it was with pride that this book was published. With the cook book they "gave a business history of first-class mercantile houses of nearly every department; for it is as important to know where to buy as what to eat."

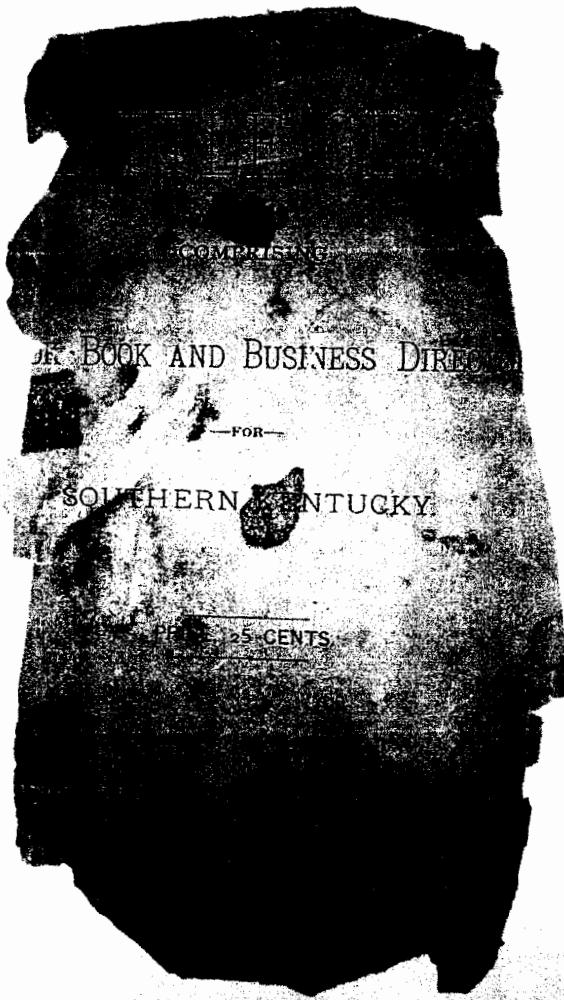
To the ladies of Southern Kentucky this book was respectfully dedicated by its authors, and its name was the "Little Gem," the price, 25 cents.

The first advertisement was for "Trader Palace," owned by B. Staadeker and G.M. Cresap. It read "B. Staadeker & Co., dealers in drygoods, men's and youth's clothing, furnishing goods, boots and shoes, hats and caps, sewing machines sold retail at wholesale prices; merchant tailoring done on short notice. Carpets, rugs, mattings, oil cloths, etc. Call and examine our immense stock before making your purchases."

Next, Joplin, Cates & Co. (F.M. Joplin and J.W. Cates,) dealers in farm implements and lumber. "Sole agents in Hardin county for the Oliver plow, Dayton sulky plow, Studebaker farm and spring wagons, Buckeye reapers and mowers, rake threshes, other sorts of plows, cultivators, lumber, windows, cement, lime and plaster hair, etc. (We handle nothing but the best and guarantee satisfaction.)"

Rankins-Snyders Hardware Co., had for sale hardware, cutlery, guns, the best bell made (the farm type) and many other things in the hardware line.

Quiggins & Brother, "Protect the Dead." This was followed by the gruesome statement that thousands of graves are robbed every year, so they took pleasure in



The well-worn cover of the Little Gem cookbook assembled in 1882 by the ladies of the Lucinda B. Helm Methodist Episcopal Church, South. The complete work is preserved in its entirety and housed in the Memorial United Methodist Church archives on North Miles Street in Elizabethtown.

R. L. WINTERSMITH

R. L. WINTERSMITH

R. L. Wintersmith & Son.

Wholesale and Retail Dealers in

GROCERIES, HARDWARE,

IRON, PITTSBURG COAL.

WAGON AND CARRIAGE-WARE,

QUEENSWARE & WOODENWARE.

EXTRACTS OF ALL KINDS, CANNED GOODS, FLAVORS, DRIED FRUITS, RAISINS, Currants, AND CITRON, BAKING POWDERS, YEAST POWDERS.

In fact everything to assist you in making the good things described in the recipes in this Cook Book.

The oldest house in town-has never changed-so this shows how the people are pleased with our prices and ourselves. Uncle Bob is always there and young Bob to help him.

ELIZABETHTOWN, N.Y.

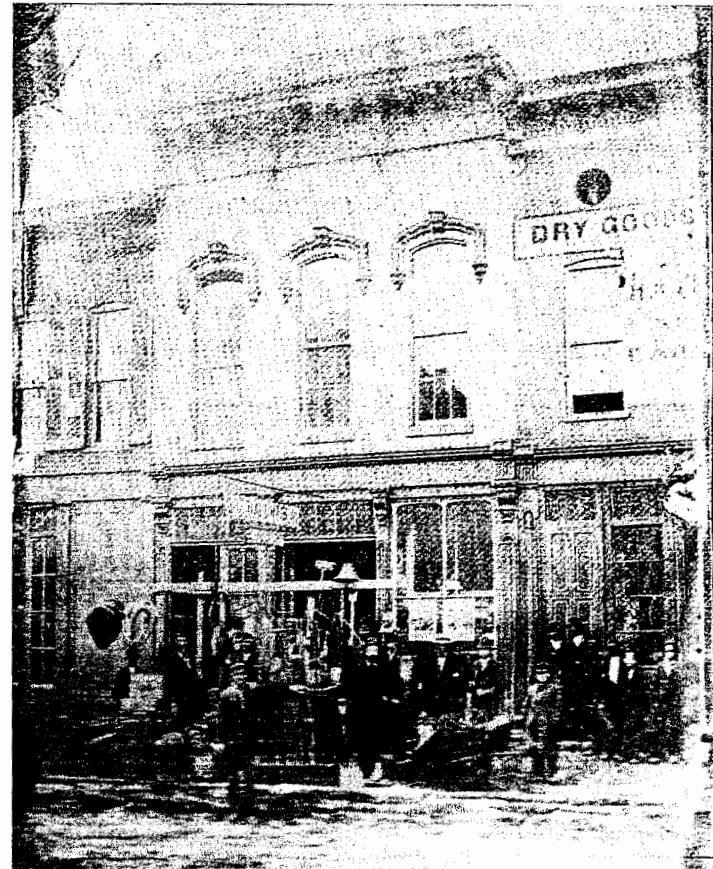
announcing to the public that they were now agents for Boyd's Patent Burglar-Proof Self-Locking Grave Vaults, which they guaranteed to be a perfect protection against grave robbing. They even had one on exhibition, and earnestly solicited your inspection of same.

H.M. Middleton's full page ad stated that he was "dealer in staple & fancy groceries, teas, tobaccos and cigars, hardware, glassware and crockery, all kinds of sewing machine needles," and that the highest price was paid for country produce in cash or goods.

Adam Beeler, Elizabethtown, keeps constantly on hand at his provision store a large supply of SUPERIOR bacon, hams, shoulders and sides, "which he will sell, either wholesale or retail, at lowest market prices."

Kirkpatrick & Weber, dealers in drugs and medicines, also had for sale fancy and toilet articles, wallpaper, pictures, and picture frames, paints, oils and varnishes, blank books, school books and stationary of all kinds. Prescriptions were carefully compounded day or night.

C. Hotopp, dealer and manufacturer of boots and



Left: R. L. Wintersmith & Son advertisement from the Little Gem. Above: Photo of the business in 1900 from a special Industrial edition of the Elizabethtown News. Wintersmith's firm was founded in 1858 and enjoyed a long run in business first headed by Sr and then Jr.

shoes, keeps on hand a full supply of ladies', misses' and children's fine boots and shoes. The finest goods made to order on the shortest notice, and at reasonable prices. "Work warranted to please customers."

R.L. Wintersmith & Sons were "wholesale and retail dealers in groceries, hardware, iron, Pittsburg coal, wagon and carriage ware, queensware and wooden ware. Extracts of all kinds, canned goods, flavors, dried fruits, raisins, currants and citron, baking powders, yeast powders. In fact, everything to assist you in making the good things described in the recipes in this Cook Book. The oldest house in town-has never changed-so this shows how the people are pleased with our prices and ourselves. Uncle Bob is always there, and young Bob to help him"

T.B. Carter, (Foerg's Old Stand) seemed to conduct a confectionery, restaurant and baker. He also took orders for wedding suppers, and for picnics and parties which were promptly and satisfactorily filled. First class meals were served to order. "Prices as low as quality permits."

Established in 1869, and according to the

advertisement, "the cheapest place in town" was W.C. Hawkins, Jr., wholesale and retail dealer in staple and fancy groceries, fine teas, tobaccos and cigars. He even had willow-ware!

S.R. Robertson was dealer in dry goods, fancy goods, millinery, carpets, hats, clothing and gent's furnishing goods. "Goods as low as the lowest. New goods just received."

Then several law firms: W. C. Hutcherson, attorney at law and examiner; A.B. Montgomery and James C. Poston, attorneys at law; James Montgomery and W.H. Marriott, attorneys at law, who would practice in all the courts of Hardin county and Court of Appeals and would promptly make and remit collections.

M. Muthig announced that he was a merchant tailor, and always had a complete line of gentlemen's goods on hand, and guaranteed satisfaction.

T.A. Orr was a druggist and apothecary, and dealer in toilet and fancy articles, soaps, brushes and fine stationery, pure whiskey, segars and tobacco, and a few other items.

R.L. Stith was announced as attorney at law.

G.W. Dyer had a full line of staple and fancy groceries, queens-ware, wood and willow-ware, which he would sell at the lowest prices.

The Elizabethtown News, H.M. M'Carty, proprietor. "Fifteen years of successful publication. A large size weekly paper, brimful of neighborhood news, devoted specially to the interests of Hardin and adjacent counties. Job printing at Louisville prices."

J.A. Barr, D.D.S., was a dentist, with his office over Wintersmith & Son's store.

A.W. Morris, M.D., was a physician and surgeon, with his office on the southeast corner of the Public Square.

Mr. Sweets offered his services in wagon-making and blacksmithing. Attention given to repairing in wood or iron work. His shop was on Mulberry Street, between Main and Poplar Streets.

D.C. Swan Wintersmith dealt in confections,

"We may live without poetry, music and art,
We may live without conscience, and live without heart,
We may live without friends, we may live without books,
But civilized man cannot live without cooks."

He may live without books,—what is knowledge but grieving,
He may live without hope,—what is hope but deceiving,
He may live without love,—what is passion but pining,
But where is the man that can live without dining!"

The authors of the Little Gem also included one small attempt at prose in the preface of their publication that hinted at their worth in the scheme of life.

When you want Pure Drugs,

GO TO

Warfield's Drug Store,

ELIZABETHTOWN, KY.

J. H. VANMETER,

ATTORNEY AT LAW,

ELIZABETHTOWN, KY.

Will practice in all the Courts of Hardin and adjoining Counties.

WEED S. CHELF,

ATTORNEY AT LAW.

Will practice in all the Courts of Hardin and adjoining Counties.

Special attention given to collections.

REFERENCES.—William Chennah, Attorney, Louisville, Ky.; Patton & Fairman, Governors, Elizabethtown; Martin, Circuit Clerk of Hardin Co.; John W. Wiles, County Clerk of Hardin Co.; Boer & Davis, Attorneys, Louisville, Ky.; R. Sanderfer & Co., Merchants, Elizabethtown; C. M. Frazer, Circuit Clerk of Hardin Co.; W. H. Gardner, and J. S. Spriggs, Sheriffs, Hardin Co.; E. H. Feller, Physician, Rivesville, Ky.

B. F. COLLINS,

MERCHANT AND CUSTOM MILLER,

DEALER IN

FANCY FLOUR.

Custom Grinding Solicited. Will pay highest market price for all good Wheat that comes to this market.

ELIZABETHTOWN, KY.

Dr. Elisha Warfield and his wife, Mary, were the owners/operators of a drug store in Elizabethtown for some years. He died January 18, 1897.

cigars, toys, musical goods, stationery and periodicals.

B.F. Collins, merchant and custom miller, was a dealer in fancy flour. He paid the highest market price "for all good wheat that comes to this market."

J.H. VanMeter was also an attorney at law, "willing to practice in all courts of Hardin and adjoining counties."

Weed S. Chelf, attorney at law. "Will practice in all the courts of Hardin and adjoining counties, and would give special attention to collections."

Nugent & Minor, confectionery and ice cream saloon, was next door to Wintersmith & Son. They were dealers in candies, fruit and tobacco. Candy was made by them.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Special thanks is extended to David Wortham, local historian and curator of the Memorial United Methodist Church for his assistance in photographing the Little Gem.



This Family Temperance Pledge appears in a 1891 copy of the Holy Bible containing the King James and the Revised Version of the Old and New Testaments along with selected historical references & readings, illustrated parables, and bible aids for social and private prayer printed by the B. F. Johnson & Co, of Richmond, VA and donated by the Pace Family to the Hardin County History Museum.

Countywide Alcohol Sales at Roadhouses

TEMPERANCE MOVEMENT GIVES AWAY TO ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL GROWTH

Temperance movements waxed and waned in the county from the early nineteenth century producing localized prohibitions. The atmosphere created by WWI caused a nationwide support for prohibition and the ratification of the 18th Amendment of the Constitution in January 1919.

By the late 1920s support eroded for the law and Americans were well on the road to the midst of a massive economic depression - the worst in our nation's history.

F.D.R., a newly elected president, promoted recovery through his own 'new deal' special. One of the most popular bills enacted during his first 100 days in office had little to do with banks or public works jobs. F.D.R. repealed the 1921 Prohibition with the 21st Amendment and enacted a Beer-Wine Revenue Act that legalized the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages containing no more than 3.2 percent alcohol by weight.

Businessmen in Elizabethtown and Hardin County moved immediately to take advantage of legislation that stimulated economic growth and personal choice.

By June 1933, the court order records of Hardin County showed 36 road house applications filed and approved in the county with the county clerk instructed to issue permits for the said businesses.



Photo Courtesy of Haynes Routt

Above: Inside view of the US 31W Halfway House once located near the intersection of Old Sonora Road. The establishment was located halfway between Louisville and Bowling Green and during its tenure served as a roadhouse, bus station and restaurant.

Right: April 6, 1933, *Elizabethtown News* story announces the availability of beer at the Halfway House near Sonora.

REAL BEER TO BE SOLD TO-MORROW

Retail Licenses Issued To Two Dealers In County

Starting to-morrow, real beer will be sold in Hardin county and preparations to handle this product for the first time since the 18th Amendment went into effect thirteen years ago.

Frank Corley, of Elizabethtown, and Grant's Half Way House on the Dixie Highway 1.2 miles south of this city, have already completed their plans for the sale of beer.

Corley was the first to secure city license to retail beer and the Halfway House was the first to receive state and county license, which is issued from the office of the county clerk. Both have applied for federal license.

The Halfway House has ordered fifteen cases of new beer for delivery early Friday morning and expects the law will be sprung to accommodate applicants by 7 o'clock to-morrow morning.

It is understood that several other retail dealers will obtain the necessary licenses and be ready to handle beer within the next few days. One prospective dealer is reported to be considering the establishment of a beer garden on his property near town.

Among those to distribute beer to the retail dealers of this section are the local Coca-Cola and Orange Crush Bottling Works. Luke Schmidt, proprietor of the first named business, yesterday obtained a wholesaler's license from the city.

For the time being, no draught beer will be sold in the county. Several dealers have expressed their intention to install apparatus necessary to bottle beer on draught at a later date when they can ascertain more of their beer business. A dealer would be able to sell eight gallons of beer per day in order to handle it profitably.

Beer will probably retail at most places in the county around cents a bottle, when bought in the bottles. One of the dealers expects to charge 25.50 per case (24 bottles) when bought by the case.

License fees for retailers in Elizabethtown amounts to \$100, of which \$20 is the Federal tax, \$76 is the county and state tax and \$16 is the city tax. Total license fees for retailers in the county outside of Elizabethtown amounts to \$40.

Spirited Adventures

Writing County History

John Hardin's Successor Makes Good

NATION'S COMPENSATION FOR WORK IN QUESTION

By Susan McCrobie, newsletter editor

In June, we will commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the War of 1812. Hardin County has experienced vast changes since that early date in its history. While some events and names stand out in bold relief, others, more in the shadow perhaps and less easily recognized, are nevertheless essential to the true understanding of our county history.

During the War of 1812, Hardin County resident Christopher Miller was an essential part of the commonwealth's tactical intelligence system in the Northwest. Captain Christopher Miller led one of the four companies that made up Major Dubois Toussaint's Battalion of Mounted Spies between September 13, 1812 and October 30, 1812.

The military intelligence systems of that day were conventions like cavalry reconnaissance, cavalry screens, outposts, pickets, scouts and spies. In the field, intelligence was the job of Indian scouts and spies. William Henry Harrison had 13 spies and scouts in his employ as he marched on his way to the Battle of Tippecanoe. The British also depended heavily on the help of Indians for intelligence purposes. Enterprising Indians like Tecumseh regularly captured the mail to learn of America's situation throughout the war.

After the close of the war, on January 11, 1819, the Kentucky Legislature memorialized the United States Congress to provide for Christopher Miller, of Hardin County, for his work as a spy among the Indians during a period of war, just not the 1812 war. It appears that Miller had considerable on the job training before being named captain in the Kentucky Militia during the War of 1812.

The congressional record hold several entries for Christopher Miller that fills the many gaps and general cloudiness at to detail that local records fail to preserve for this local legend as one endeavors to trace authentically the early life of this man and what prepared him for a trusted leadership role during the 1812 war.

28th Congress, [SENATE]
1st Session [127]

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES
FEBRUARY 15, 1884.

Submitted, and ordered to be printed.
Mr. Foster made the following
REPORT

[To accompany bill S. 83.]

The Committee of Claims, to whom were referred the memorial and resolution of the Legislature of Kentucky, passed on the 9th day of March, 1842, have had the same under consideration, and beg leave top submit the following report:

In June, 1782, Christopher Miller, a boy about twelve or thirteen years old, was taken prisoner by the Shawnee Indians, in the then county of Jefferson, now Nelson county, in the State of Kentucky. The Indians carried him to their towns near the head of the Wabash, where he remained a prisoner until 1794. During the time of his captivity he learned the languages of several tribes of Indians, their ways, habits, manners, and customs. He also acquired a perfect knowledge of the country, having been engaged with them as a hunter and warrior; having fought with them in a number of their battles. He was an active, energetic, and intelligent man. In March, 1794, he was in advance of the Indians, hunting not far from Fort Greenville, where the American army, under General Wayne, was stationed. The spies of General Wayne surprised him in his camp, and took him prisoner. He was carried to Fort Greenville, and soon recognized by his brothers, who were in the American army. He was employed by the general as a spy; and from March until August he rendered valuable and important services, by scouring the country in advance of the army, obtaining intelligence as to the movements of the Indians, and, from time to time, taking prisoners, until he and those with his captured some eight or ten. The services he rendered were important, and the intelligence he obtained essential to the movements and safety of the American army.

In August, 1794, while General Wayne, with his army, was advancing into the Indian country, he determined to make a last attempt to treat with the Indians, and to make

peace, if practicable. He was also desirous to obtain information of the movements of the Indians, their numbers, and position; and, if they would not treat, when and where he was to expect battle. A council was held as to the person who should carry the flag; Mr. Miller was selected; and when the general informed him he was the person fixed on to go and invite the Indians to treat, and also to make such observations and collect the necessary information desired by the general, Mr. Miller at first refused to go, alleging that he would instantly be put to death; that the Indians were highly exasperated against him; that they considered he had been guilty of desertion from the, and of treason in acting against them as a spy. General Wayne urged him to go, appealing to his patriotism and bravery, and, moreover, promised Mr. Miller, and pledged the Government of the United States, that, if he returned, he should be made rich and independent for life.

Mr. Miller was finally prevailed upon to undertake the mission, and on the morning of the 13th of August, 1794, he started from the American camp, to go in search of the Indians; he found them encamped near the rapids of the Miami of the lakes. He was instantly taken into custody, being well known to them, and accused of desertion and treason. A council condemned him to be burnt on the next day. Mr. Miller was confined and tied down in the guard house. He soon learned the decision of the Indian council; he asked for a rehearing, and to be brought before the council. This request was granted; and, upon his second trial, (for never until then was he present,) he produced the letter of General Wayne, addressed to the Indians, in which the general declared he would put his prisoners to death, if Mr. Miller was not permitted to return. They then released him, and he returned immediately to the American army; he met them advancing, and informed the general that the Indians would not make peace; stated their numbers, where they were encamped, and, also, that they were ready for battle. With this information the army continued to advance; the general made the necessary preparation to meet the approaching conflict; and found the Indians prepared for battle at the place designated by Mr. Miller. The battle was fought on the 20th of August, 1794; the plan of the battle was admirable, and the result glorious. Mr. Miller was in the engagement; upon his information the general knew when and where he could fight, and what numbers he had opposed to him. The information Mr. Miller gave enabled him to guard against surprise, and prevent such horrible disasters as took place at Braddock's defeat, the battle of Blue Lick, Harmar's defeat, and last, but not least, the massacre of the army of St. Clair.

Mr. Miller returned home, and settled in the county of Hardin, among his people, where he shortly afterwards

married. During the last war with Great Britain, he commanded a company of spies, stood high in his country, was a justice of the peace and sheriff; he also represented the county of Hardin in the State Legislature, serving several years as a Representative, and four years in the Senate. He died in 1828, leaving eight children — one of them died a short time ago, leaving three children.

Your committee would further report, that the Legislature of Kentucky, in 1814, passed certain resolutions calling the attention of Congress to the claims of Mr. Miller on the Government of the United States, and respectfully requested compensation to be made him. A committee of the House of Representatives reported in favor of paying and settling his claims, but the subject was not further acted on. In 1820 the Legislature again took up the claims of Mr. Miller on the government of the United States, and by similar resolutions again invited the attention of Congress to the subject. The resolutions were presented to Congress,

and a bill was passed on the second day of May, 1820, giving Mr. Miller a section of land, which he for some time refused to accept, declaring the compensation inadequate to the services rendered and the dangers encountered. He was ultimately prevailed on to receive what was offered him, under the assurances of those who urged his acceptance of the section of land, that Congress a some future day would make further provision for him and his family. Nothing further was asked for or done in the lifetime of Mr. Miller. His children are in humble circumstances—some of them poor and helpless. The Legislature of Kentucky, apprised of their situation, and what a small compensation had been made to Mr. Miller, again took up the subject, and passed the resolutions referred to this committee. In support of the facts above set out in this report, the committee refers to documents numbered from one to fifteen, inclusive. In addition to those documents, parole evidence was heard by the committee.

The committee has had its attention called to what Congress has heretofore done for the widows and heirs Colonel John Hardin and Major Alexander Truman. Those gentlemen were sent by General Washington, then President of the United States, each with a separate flag, in the year 1792, to the Indian towns, to invite the Indians to treat and make peace. The Indians, flushed with the signal victory which they had gained the year before over St. Clair, refused to treat of peace, and put to death Hardin and Truman, and all who accompanied them. On the 27th of February, 1793, Congress passed a law giving to the widow and children of Colonel Hardin amounted to \$3,150, and that to the widow and heirs of Major Truman to \$2,100. On the 14th of May, 1800, Congress again took the subject under consideration, and gave to each of the children of Colonel Hardin one hundred dollars a year, until they respectively attained the age of twenty-one years; and also the same sum to the daughter of Major Truman, From the

The signature of Christopher Miller appears on the August 1795 United States and Tribal Confederacy's Treaty of Greenville that opened southern Ohio to settlement. Miller was one of eight sworn interpreters signing the treaty as agents of the United States of America.

information given to the committee as to the number and ages of Colonel Hardin's children, they received about \$2,800 in addition to the \$3,150 previously granted them. How much was received by the daughter of major Truman, under the law of 1800, could not be known, as there was no person before the committee who could state her age when the last law passed. The fate of those two officers, Hardin and Truman, was known to Miller and General Wayne in 1794, when Miller went with the flag. The chances were ten to one against his life. He was receiving only the wages of a spy; those gentlemen got one guinea a day each; the eyes of the nation were upon them; they had before that time filled high offices in the army; an officer occupies a position that gives him every incentive to confront danger, and look death in the face. But when a poor and obscure soldier perils his life, it is alone the lure of adventure, and the love of bold and glorious actions; such intrepidity ought to reward. Miller had more to dread when he set out with the flag than Hardin and Truman. Up to their death, the Indians had respected the flag of the white man; their death told Mr. Miller that the flag of the United States would be no protection, Hardin and Truman lost their lives, and the Government derived no benefit there from. Miller saved his life, and contributed greatly to the preservation of the American army, and to the achievement of the victory that followed, which, at the time, was hailed by the people of the United States with joy and triumph, and now forms a part of the history of the American people of which they are justly proud.

Deeply impressed with importance of the services of Mr. Miller, and believing he was not fully compensated in his lifetime, the committee are of opinion that further provision should be made for the children of Mr. Miller, and for that purpose report a bill.

Christopher Miller died on May 16, 1828 in Hardin County, Kentucky, several years before the United States Congress published a decision on Kentucky's request for compensation regarding his pre-1812 military service of carrying a flag of truce to the hostile Indians when earlier attempts had failed. On March 12, 1846 the United States House of Representatives answered the Kentucky Legislature's resolution regarding Miller.

29th Congress,

[Rep.]

[412]

1st Session

CHRISTOPHER MILLER - HEIRS OF

HO. OF REPS

MARCH 12, 1846.

Read, and laid upon the table.

Mr. Gordon, from the Committee of Claims, made the following

REPORT:

The Committee of Claims, to who were referred the memorial and resolution of the legislature of Kentucky on the subject of making compensation to the heirs of Christopher Miller, deceased, report:

On the 15th February, 1844, Mr. Foster, from the Committee of Claims in the Senate, made a full report of this case, to which reference is made. From that report, it appears Mr. Miller received the wages of a spy, for his services under General Wayne, in 1794; and in 1820, Congress gave him a quarter section of land, which he received for these same services.

Although the feelings of the heart are strongly appealed to in behalf of this claim; still the committee have been unable to discover any tenable ground in this case on which a bill for further compensation or reward would be justifiably predicated, and recommend the adoption of the following resolution;

Resolved, That nothing is due from this government for the said services of Mr. Miller.

Ritchie & Heiss, print.

That quarter section of land given by Congress in 1820 for services rendered, and according to testimony before Congress deemed inadequate by Miller for the risk involved, was for patent on six hundred and forty acres at any land office of the United States northwest of the Ohio River. A search for patents in the name of Miller throughout Indiana and Ohio indicate several pieces of land between 40 to 80 acres were entered into General Land Offices. All, dated after the demise of Miller, are listed to Christopher Miller and his heirs.

THE HEIRS

Following the death of General "Mad" Anthony Wayne, Miller left the army, settled in Hardin County, Kentucky, and eventually married Miss Mary Walls in 1799.

Walls was the daughter of Major George Walls, of Berkeley County, Virginia, who after a long and honorable service as an officer in the American Revolution, came to the Falls of the Ohio and was in command there until his death in 1786.

Christopher and Mary Miller had several children and upon his death he was survived by three sons, Christopher Wayne Miller, who located in the part of Hardin County that later became LaRue and was married to Magdalene Beeler; Isaiah Miller, who

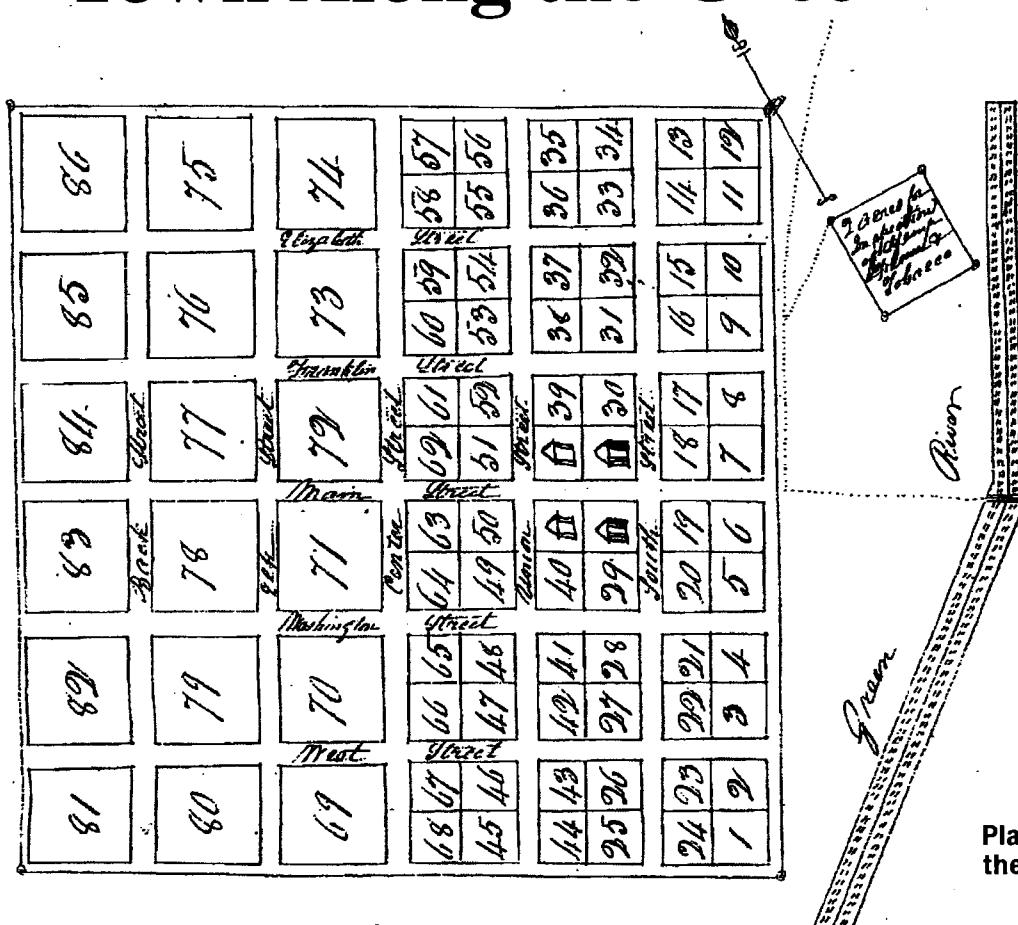
married Louisa, a sister of Governor John LaRue Helm; James Warren Miller and six daughters most who had married before the death of their mother in 1836.

The daughters included: Marie, Margaret, Catherine, wife of William Harrison Thomas and Elizabeth, wife of Joseph Moreland.

Another one of those daughters was Sallie, who married Miles Hart Thomas, son of Hardin Thomas.

The final girl, Gilly, married William Bethel. She died on the 29th day of March, 1846 just seventeen days following the death of her beloved father. Both were buried in the Hardin Thomas family cemetery over looking Freeman Lake.

Hardin County Court Establishes Town Along the Green River in 1816



Six years before the town of Munfordsville was established, Thomas Munford, brother of its founder, built a log inn along the pioneer trail outside the boundaries of the town.

Among the many distinguished guests at the inn was Gen. Andrew Jackson in 1829 enroute to his inauguration as seventh president of the U.S.

Plat of Munfordsville as recorded in the Hardin County Clerk's Office.

McClure in his book, Two Centuries in Elizabethtown and Hardin County, KY 1776 to 1976 mentions the Federal Census of 1810 and lists several Hardin Countians with slaves. One such slave owner was Richard J. Munford. Munford had one dozen in the count but McClure makes no further mention of Munford in his length history.

A early document recorded in the Hardin County Clerk's records in deed book F, pages 29-30 gives more detail on Munford and the settlement history of our county.

"Two acres of ground laid off for an Inspection of Hemp Flowers & Tobacco by the direction of the Trustees of the Town of Munfordsville & Richard J. Munford the proprietor thereof which is bounded as follows towit. Beginning at a large white oak standing in a small hollow thence East 18 poles to a black oak & hickory on the cliff of Green River thence North 18 poles to a black oak, thence West 18 poles to a hickory standing 9 poles southwardly of Elizabeth Street in the said town of Munfordsville, thence down the aforesaid hollow South 18 poles to the beginning. 10th August 1816.

Dudley Roundtree, DCHC

Laid off 100 acres of land by the direction of the Trustees of the town of Munfordsville for the use and said benefit of the said town and bounded as follows towit, beginning at three black oak and hickory bushes standing on the high bank of Green River above the head of a large blue spring which said spring is for the use and benefit of said town running thence N30 E130 poles to three post oaks thence N60 W130 poles to a stake in the edge of the Barrens thence S30 W130 poles to a stake 22 1/2 poles S30W from two hickories marked for a corner, thence S60 E130 poles to the beginning.

Then subdivided into streets, half acre in lots & two acre in out lots as doth appear on the connected plat. 10th August 1816.

Dudley Roundtree, DCHC

I Samuel Haycraft Junior Deputy Clerks of the Hardin County Court in the State of Kentucky do hereby certify that at a county court beginning and held for the said county at the court house in Elizabethtown on Monday the 12th day of August 1816 the within plat of the town of Munfordsville was produced in court and ordered to be recorded where upon I have truly recorded the same this 15th day of August 1816.

Now you know a little more about Richard J. Munford, founder of Munfordsville.

UNION VETERAN DIED MONDAY

James Harris, 92, Was With Sherman In March To The Sea

James Harris, 92, one of the few remaining Union veterans of the Civil War, born and reared in Hardin county, succumbed to old age infirmities, Monday afternoon at his home, four miles east of Elizabethtown.

Mr. Harris, who was a sergeant-major in the Union army, served under General Buell at Perryville, where he received a slight wound. Other major engagements in which he saw service included Shiloh, Chickamauga, and Lookout Mountain. He went with Sherman to the sea and often said that his company went as far south as any men that wore the blue. He was sergeant of a foraging party on many campaigns in the south. According to Mr. Harris, he never took any provisions or horses from people on these campaigns, without giving them a voucher on the United States Government.

During his later life Mr. Harris did not permit hunting on his farm because he said that he had learned during the war to despise the sound of gunfire and that it reminded him of the sickening sights he had witnessed during the war.

The deceased left no immediate survivors. He was a widower and his only son Frank Harris, died recently.

Funeral and burial services were held yesterday morning at eleven o'clock at the Valley Creek Baptist church, of which he was a member, by Rev. Barnes.

CIVIL WAR FEDERAL SOLDIERS REMEMBERED AFTER DISCOVERY OF TWO LOCAL NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS.... *Commitment to Historic Preservation Challenged*

When James L. Harris died he left no descendant to keep his legacy as a Federal soldier alive. In the midst of the 150th commemoration of the Civil War, we once again discover his unique and maybe exaggerated tale of service in an old newspaper clipping.

In 1860, our James L. Harris, his wife, Francis [nee Fallon], and baby daughter, Sarah J. lived in Ohio County, KY at Hartford. On November 2, 1861, a James L. Harris joined Co. F, 17th Regimental Kentucky Infantry at Hartford, KY, as a wagoneer, for a three year period. The official record shows this Harris' name on the Co. Muster-out Roll dated Louisville, KY, January 23, 1865. The detailed service record of the 17th KY Volunteer Infantry found in Dyer's Compendium of the War of the Rebellion matches the newspaper account of action with one exception, during the battle at Perryville, KY the regiment was nearby at Springfield, KY, enroute from Louisville, KY, in pursuit of Bragg's Army and not engaged in the fight at Chaplin Hills.

The uncomfortably hot and dry July 22nd thru August 25th duration for the 17th KY Volunteer Infantry at the Siege of Atlanta before sweeping back and forth across Georgia, returning to Franklin, Tennessee and closing out their long campaign at the Battle of Franklin on November 30 is a worth story for any Veteran not to forget action at Shiloh, Corinth, Chickamauga, Chattanooga and Jonesboro.

While the newspaper story indicates that Harris may have handed over vouchers for provisions and horses collected from people for Federal army usage, if he was with the 17th he did it at another's command, as he was not a sergeant-major, and; in his advanced years he did not apply to the U.S. Government for any type of pension leaving behind additional records or statements regarding military service to assist in honoring his and his family's sacrifice to preserve the Union.

Society members, now that we are aware of an old Federal soldier buried in the county without an appropriate tombstone honoring his service and sacrifice, we should petition the Government for a service marker and fulfill our society's mission.

It is possible that old newspaper stories and cemeteries holds the key to unlock the legacy of our local Federal soldier histories that are currently unexplored or remembered.

LEFT: On December 19, 1929, the Hardin County Enterprise announced the passing of one of the county's few remaining Union Veterans and a brief glimpse back at his service history.

RIGHT: At some point in time, Harris' name was carved into the top of his wife's tombstone. He was the last living member of his line and the record of his earthly life remains incomplete.



CHALLENGE TO SOCIETY MEMBERS....

It appears that Hardin Countians choose to eagerly embrace their 'southern' heritage after the close of the war in all possible avenues.

One hundred and fifty years later, with the exception of claiming the commander-in-chief of the Federal forces as a native Hardin Countian, we still identify with the defenders of States Rights and our Union stories are still not identified.

Our challenge is to collect, preserve, and tell this county's Federal story including the hometown soldier to those who laid their heads here for a brief time in defense of this nation.

An outcome of this Civil War Sesquicentennial should be a downtown granite monument to those Illinois men who stood against bombardment of our town. They too are part of the long and rich history of Hardin County.

To Honor Federal Soldiers Buried Here

An effort is being made in this city to secure fitting recognition and monument to the memory of the six unknown Federal soldiers killed in a battle here during the Civil War.

C. C. Wiseman, of this city, who has been actively interested in the above project for the past year, in response to a letter sent to J. D. Craddock, Congressman from this district, received the following letter from Mr. Craddock:

Hon. C. C. Wiseman,
Elizabethtown, Kentucky.

Dear Mr. Wiseman:

I was very glad to get your letter of this date, and will say in the outset that I am more than willing to do all that I am able to do with reference to the "unmarked graves of Civil War Veterans" that you mentioned.

After calling the War Department I was informed that individual markers would be supplied upon proper proof as to each buried veteran, but I have an idea that it would be difficult to produce "proper proof" as to the graves you mentioned, and I will attempt to get a modest monument for them as a unit. But before I will be able to make any steps here I would be glad if you would get all the evidence, in the form of affidavits, that you are able to that will prove that these graves you mention contain Civil War Veterans, the number thought buried there, and any identification of individuals that you can. In other words I would be in better position to make the fight, here, if I could be armed with ample proof of the facts and circumstances concerning this matter.

I will appreciate this information at your earliest convenience. I am happy to render your town this service.

Yours very truly,
J. D. CRADDOCK.

Mr. Wiseman requests us to announce that if there is any one who can give him information regarding the soldiers buried here, that he would be glad to communicate the same to Congressman Craddock.

The June 6, 1929 issue of the Hardin County Enterprise addressed the need for a modest monument for the U.S. 91st Illinois unit that defended Elizabethtown during the Civil War and especially those fallen soldiers left behind beneath its soil.



Message From The President

Greetings to all members,

As I am assuming the reins of the Hardin County Historical Society at the January 2012 meeting, I felt I should introduce myself to you.

While my family did not settle in Hardin County or even Kentucky, my late husband's family did. I have other close ties to this area. First, I am a graduate of Elizabethtown High School (I don't say what year). No matter where I lived I have considered E'town my hometown for sixty years. The memories of E'town are many and happy ones. History and genealogy are two of my greatest passions.

My past includes many occupations – credit manager, vice-president of a Civil Engineering firm, draftsperson, surveyor, my own company (antiques/collectibles/appraisal/estate sales), Legal Assistant (Paralegal) degree, Arizona State Child Support enforcement, and wife of a very wonderful man, John F. French, Jr. – a Hardin County native.

I have two sons and a daughter, 6 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren (2 preemie twin boys – prayers are appreciated). Having graduated from EHS in one of the best and closest classes, I am fortunate to have many dear friends in the area.

It is my hope to fill the shoes of the previous presidents adequately. More than that, I hope to see our membership and accomplishments grow. There are many projects that the Society can and should be involved with and I will lay them out during the next two years.

In upcoming issues of "Bits and Pieces", I hope to have the other officers introduce themselves to you.

Happy 2012 to all

-Judith "Judy" Cummins French

IT IS THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!

Please remember to send your yearly membership dues to the Society's P.O. Box listed on the back page of this newsletter.

Share your newsletter with a neighbor or close friend – who knows, they may become our newest member.

Historical Society announces next meeting



Nikos Pappas

The Hardin County Historical Society will meet Monday evening, January 23, 2012, 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 Twylane VanLahr at 270-765-2515 by **Friday, January 20th, for dinner reservations**; later reservations for the meal cannot be guaranteed.

The dinner is followed at 7 P.M. by a special program, *Commemorating the Civil War through Fiddle Music* presented by Nikos Pappas of Lexington, Kentucky. This presentation will focus on the events and people commemorated in Kentucky fiddle tunes, featuring oral history, social and historical context to give a rare glimpse into the personal ramifications of this conflict leading to a greater understanding of the War itself.

Nikos Pappas' program, *Commemorating the Civil War through Fiddle Music*, is funded in part by the Kentucky Humanities Council, Inc. The Kentucky Humanities Council, Inc. is an independent, nonprofit corporation affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Council is supported by the National Endowment and private contributions.

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