

# *Bits and Pieces of Hardin County History*

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## SAMUEL HAYCRAFT PROVIDED FOR A DIVISION OF FAMILY HEIRLOOMS AMONG HIS CHILDREN

By R. Gerald McMurtry

People interested in Samuel Haycraft's HISTORY OF ELIZABETHTOWN, KENTUCKY AND ITS SURROUNDINGS are more than likely eager to learn something about the intimate family details of the life and career of this early historian whose contribution has proved both fascinating and valuable to this community. In the files of the Helm-Haycraft Collection in the Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum, Fort Wayne, Indiana, there is a two-sided single sheet, legal-size document in Haycraft's handwriting in which he makes provisions for the division of his books, magazines, paintings, engravings, photographs, piano, wine, clothing and even farm machinery, among his children and in-laws. The document bears no date.

It is assumed that because his wife Sarah Brown Haycraft is not mentioned that she was deceased, the date of her death being August 14, 1878. Haycraft likely made this division of personal property shortly before his death in his 84th year on December 22, 1878.

Apparently, the "division" referred to in the document was not to be included in a duly executed will by Samuel Haycraft, Jr. The original document follows with no changes being made in spelling paragraphs, or punctuation:

To my son Edgar H. Haycraft I give and bequeath Henry's Commentary on the Bible 6 volumes also Smith's Bible Dictionary Hitchcock's Analysis of the Bible and the unbound numbers of Ford's Church reports.

Also the History of England by Hume, Smollict & Blissit in 8 volumes.

To my Daughter Mariah McMurtry<sup>1</sup> I give the two enlarged photographs of my wife<sup>2</sup> and myself also the old piano which I bought for her more than 30 years ago, also my new Bible containing the family Register, also a paper book containing extracts from 14 volumes of diary of Bible readings, also one dozen bottles of my make of wine, also a little fast striking 8 day clock which I purchased from Capt. Miller.<sup>3</sup>

To my Daughter Lou A. Dix<sup>4</sup> I give the painted portrait, of her Uncle Lewis Helm, after whom she was named, also the two black chairs willed to me by my mother in law,<sup>5</sup> also a little square table that stands by the piano, and to my Daughter Margaret J. Poston<sup>6</sup> I give the photograph of elder Wm. Vaughn, also a large book entitled "The Biographical Encyclopedia of Kentucky" for which I paid \$25.00, also a... Book Case with glassfront usually standing up stairs,

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### HISTORIC CAVE SPRING by Mrs. T.D. Winstead

Although it was the site of one of the most historical locations in Elizabethtown, it is doubtful if many of the young people picnicking on the hill above the cave spring sixty-five years ago were aware of the significance of the spot. It was an ideal place for picnic, not far from town, on a hill commanding a magnificent view with the swiftly flowing Buffalo Creek winding around the base of the hill. On the south side of the creek, huge limestone rocks project out from the cliff making a large and deep cave. Cool, clear water flows out of the cavern, momentarily forming a pool before plunging over the rim and falling two or three feet to join Buffalo Creek.

It was at that time Tom Gardner made a practice of filling his wagon with straw and hauling crowds of people, both young and old up to the top of the hill for picnics in the summertime. About 1924 an enterprising man by the name of Martin built a concrete dam across the creek to establish a swimming pool not far from the cave spring. The pool was a popular addition to their outings until a heavy rain washed out the dam, effectively ending the water sports.

The hill, the cave, and the spring must have presented an appealing and providential sight to pioneer Samuel Haycraft in the fall of 1779 as he searched for a suitable location in Severns Valley on which to build a fort for the protection of his family and the other members of his party. Decades later, his son, Samuel Haycraft, Junior, described the advent of his parents and other settlers in Severns Valley in his book, THE HISTORY OF ELIZABETHTOWN; "About the fall of 1779 and the winter of 1780 the early settlers were Captain Thomas Helm, Colonel Andrew Hynes and Samuel Haycraft; each of these persons built forts with block houses. The forts were stockades, constructed of split timber, then deemed sufficient for defense against the Indian rifles. The sites were well selected, each on elevated ground, commanding springs of never failing water. The forts formed a triangle equidistant a mile apart. Capt. Helm's fort occupied the hill on which Governor Helm's residence now stands. Colonel Hynes's was on the elevation now occupied by J.H. Bryan, formerly by Ambrose Geoghegan, Senior and for many years by John Geoghegan, Esq. Haycraft's fort was on the hill above cave spring in which the flesh of many a deer, buffalo, and bear were preserved for use as salt were (sic) not to be had."

It was fortunate the early settlers arrived at their destination in time to build their forts before the onset of the severe cold. According to Collins' HISTORY OF KENTUCKY, "January, 1780, was the hard winter, game frozen in the forest and cattle around the stations." Material for the forts was abundant and at hand for the hills and valleys were covered with virgin forest. Brawny hands felled the mighty poplars, walnut, ash, hickory, beech, and other trees and made short work of clearing the hill top. Haycraft wrote, "The manner of erecting these forts was to dig a trench with spades or hoes or such implements as they could command, then set in split timber reaching ten or twelve feet above the ground and having fixed around the proposed ground sufficiently large to contain some five, six or eight dwellings with a block house as a kind of citadel with port holes."

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## COURT ORDER BOOK, HARDIN COUNTY, KY 1797 (6 Dec) 1798 (2 Jan)

At a Court held for Hardin County on Tuesday the 6th of Dec 1797 Present George Berry George Helm & Stephen Cleaver Gent Justices

A deed from Thomas Crow & Nancy his wife to Andrew L. Crow was produced in Court duly authenticated & Ordered to record

The same from the same to Nancy Crow ordered to Record

A bill of Emancipation of Nancy Smith Slave to Armsted Smith was acknowledged in Court by said Armsted Smith with Patrick Brown who enters himself security that She Shall not be burdensome on the County

A deed from William Lucas and Catharine his wife to Cornelius Lucas was acknowledged by the sd Wm She being previously Examined as the law directs ordered to record

A deed from the same to Peter Kermichel acknowledged in Court ordered to record

On the application of Isaac Larue Agent to John Pen Ordered that George Helm Charles Helm Moses Pigg & Samuel Haycraft Gent. be appointed Commifisioners to attend Isaac Larue to any Special Calls in an Entry of one thousand acres made in the name of John Pen on the Ohio River then & there to take on Oath the Depositions of such person as may be brought forward to Establish the agreeable to an act of Afsembly provided in such Cases

Also It is ordered that the same be appointed to attend the same in another Entry of one thousand acres in the Valley of the Great prerari then and there to proceed as the Law directs in Such Cases

Ordered that the Court be ajourned till Court in Course

Geo Helm

At a Court held for Hardin County on Tuesday the 2nd day of January 1798 Present Stephen Rawlings Robert Mosley & George Helm Gent Justices

William Comstock Esquire produced a Commifision from James Garrard Governor appointing him Justice of peace for said County it being duly certified he has taken the Oath &c

A return of a Road from Hodgins Mill to Amoses ferry on Green River ordered to be Established also ordered that all the hands living within three miles of sd be directed to Labor out and keep in repair said Road & Richard Brownfield be appointed overseer of the same

A return a Road from Elizabeth Town to Warren Court house the directis way ordered that the same be Established and William Logsdon Senr. be appointed overseer from Green river to Bacon Creek & Enoch Berry be appointed overseer from Bacon Creek to Jacob Vanmatres and all the hands within three miles of said Road be subject to the same

A return of a Road from Hardinsburg to Elizabeth Town ordered that the Established and Samuel Crawford be appointed overseer of the same and all the hands in Capt. Walkins Company Except those on Sugartree Run be Subject to the same

An Inventory & appraisement of the Estate of Charles Lee Decd produced in Court and Ordered to Record

Ordered that George Helms acompt as Commifisioner be received

Ordered that James Brown James Eaglin & Jeremiah York being first sworn do view and mark out a Road from Goodins old Station to Elizabeth Town the nighest & best way and make report thereof to Court

A deed from Thomas Helm & wife to Adam Young acknowledged in Court & ordered to record

A deed from David McCuse and wife to George Hamilton being proved and ordered to record

On the application of Mary May having made oath thereto who together with Samuel May and James Nourse her Securities entered into and acknowledged their bond as the Law directs certificate is granted for obtaining letters of Administration on the Estate of David May Decd in due form

Ordered that Joseph Kirkpatrick Isom Enlow Daniel Wade and Richard Winchester or any three of them being first Sworn do appraise the Estate of David May Decd and make return thereof to Court

Ordered that Isaac Hargis William Anderson and William Cisney being first Sworn do view and mark out a Road from Caleb Hazles the nighest and best way to Amoses ferry on Green River & make return thereof to Court

On the application of William Kelso who together with his Security Hardin Thomas entered into and acknowledged their bond as the Law directs Licence is granted him to keep a Tavern in his house in Elizabeth Town for the Term of one year

On the application of Robert Mosley who together with Jacob Vanmatre his Security entered into & acknowledged their bond as the Law directs Licence is granted him to keep a ferry over Rough Creek at Hartford Town also allowed nine pence for man and horse and six pence per Single Horse

Ordered that Christopher Bush take Charge of the Stray pound & keep the same in repair

The Earmark of Aaron Rawlings Cattle viz a Crop of the left Ear ordered to Record

Jacob Vanmatre one of the Subscribing Wittnefses to a bill of Sale of property from Samuel Forrester to Nathaniel Forrester ordered by the Novemr Court to Lay by for proof made oath that he saw said Samuel Forrester sign said bill of Sale the same is ordered to Record

Ordered that Samuel Watkins Abraham Enlow Samuel Rice Andrew Reed & Daniel Vititow be recommended as County Magistrates to his Excellency the Governor

Ordered that Court be ajourned till Court in Course

Step Rawlings

At a Court held for Hardin County on Tuesday the sixth day of March 1878 Present Bladin Ashby Stephen Rawlings and George Berry Gent Justices

A deed from John Craig to John Bush was Exhibited in Court duly authenticated and was ordered to be recorded

An Inventory & appraisement of the Estate of David May Decd was Exhibited in Court and was ordered to be recorded

Several Inventories of the Estate of Joseph Barnet decd returned and ored Record

George Helm Gent produced a Commifision under the hand and seal of his Excellency James Garrard Governor appointing him Sheriff

whereupon he together Ben Helm James Crutcher & Henry Ewin his Securities Entered into and acknowledged their bonds conditioned according to Law then the said George took the Oath required by Law

A deed from John Paul and Sally his wife to Samuel McCampbell was produced in Court duly authenticated and was ordered to be recorded

On the Motion of James Crutcher who together with Ben Helm his Security entered into and acknowledged their bond Conditioned according to Law Licence is granted him for keeping a Tavern at his house for the Term of one year next ensuing this date he having complied with what the Law requires

A deed from William Hardin and Winifred his wife to Henry Hersfield was acknowledged by the said William and was ordered to be recorded said Winifred being Examined as the law requires relinquished her right of Dower in said Land

Same from the same to Henry Miller

Same from the same to the same

Same from the same to Bolzer Claycomb

Same from the same to Nicholas Rice

Same from the same to Bolzer Claycomb

Same from the same to Adam Bare were acknowledged as above by the said William and were ordered to be recorded Winifred his wife being Examined as the Law requires relinquished her right of Dower in the above mentioned tracts of Land

A deed from Jonas Gray and Hannah his wife to Samuel Patton was acknowledged by the said Jonas and was ordered to be recorded Hannah being Examined as the law requires relinquished her Right of Dower in Said Land

A deed from Samuel Patton and Elizabeth his wife to Jonas Gray was acknowledged by the said Samuel and was ordered to be recorded said Elizabeth being Examined as the law requires relinquished her right of Dower in said land

A report of the Settlement of the Estate of John Larue Decd was returned and ordered to be recorded

Present Thomas McIntire Gent

Ordered that Jacob Swank be appointed overseer of the road in the room of Jonas Gray and the same Tithables that afsisted him do afsist the said Swank in keeping said road in repair

The Emancipation of a negro girl named Catherine the property of John Paul was acknowledged & was ordered to be recorded

On the Motion of George Helm Gent Sheriff Aaron Braden was admitted his deputy & took the Oath of office

Ordered that George Berry John Vertrees & Thomas Helm do view the publick buildings and report whether they are built agreeably to Contract or not

Ordered that Stephen Cleaver & William Cornstalk be appointed to Superintend the next Election for deligate Sheriff and Coroner and that John Paul be appointed Clerk to ditto

Ordered that Stephen Rawlings and George Berry Gent do Settle with Samuel Haycraft Gent Sheriff and make report of the Settlement to the next Court

Ordered that Hardin Thomas be allowed twelve pounds per annum for keeping John Downs and furnishing him with Every neccessary requisite to his Case

Ordered that Henry Frakes be appointed overseer of the Road from his house four miles towards the Courthouse and that all the Tithables on the waters of Mill Creek and those down Clear Creek on the north Side to the mouth and down to the mouth of Mill Creek do afsist him in Clearing and keeping said road in repair

And that all the Tithables on Freemans Creek above Capt Helm and all those on the north of said Road as far as Henry Grafses do afsist Hardin Thomas in keeping his road in repair

Ordered that John McMahan be appointed overseer of the Road from the Crofsing of Otter Creek to the big Spring and that all the Tithables on the waters of Rough Creek and Otter Creek do afsist him in Clearing and keeping said Road in repair

Ordered that all the Tithables on Freemans Creek from Capt Helms down to Jacob Vanmatres Senr and all those on Billys Creek do afsist Saml Bush in keeping his Road in repair

A letter of attorney from John Handly to Benjamin Helm was proved by the oaths of Charles Helm & John Crutcher subscribing Witnefses thereto & was ordered to be recorded

Ordered that Court be adjourned till Court in Course  
Bladin Ashby

VER--RY INTER--RESTING (If True?)

LINCOLN LORE Number 1599, May, 1971 Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry, Editor

EDITORS NOTE: Little known references to the Lincoln family in Kentucky have always appealed to the editor, as he is a native of the Blue Grass State, and recently, while checking an item in Emanuel Hert's THE HIDDEN LINCOLN, The Viking Press, 1938, William Herndon's letter to Jesse Weik, January 9, 1886, came under close scrutiny. Herndon related to Weik a very questionable story that he claimed occurred in 1817 (the Lincoln family moved to Indiana in December, 1816) which he attributed to Mentor Graham.

The statement follows:

The name of the man is Mentor Graham; he was an intelligent man, a good and a truthful man, and yet in some things he was "sorter cranky". About the year 1817 he was traveling from \_\_\_ to Elizabethtown, Kentucky. In passing from \_\_\_ to the latter place he saw at a little place a crowd of men, stopped, hitched his horse, and went among the crowd, soon found out that a man had killed his wife. Persons were expressing their horror of the act. Soon after Graham had stopped Thomas Lincoln and his boy Abraham came along and stopped, went among the crowd, found out what was the matter, had some conversation with the crowd, and now comes the nib of this letter. After all the people had expressed their ideas, one of the men said to Abraham: "My little boy, what do you think of such a deed?" The boy studied a moment, and gave a terse and eloquent idea of the cruel deed. Graham says that the boy was very sad, that his language was eloquent and feeling for one so young. The remarks which he made astonished all present, were pronounced good, plain, terse, and strong, and says Graham: I have now known Mr. Lincoln for more than fifty years and I can see the same trait of character and the same style now in Lincoln that I did in 1817 in Kentucky...

PAST MASTERS OF TEMPLE MORRISON LODGE NO. 76, (concluded)

- 1866 Fayette Hewitt
- 1867 Fayette Hewitt
- 1868 Elisha Warfield
- 1869 Martin H. Cofer
- 1870 George V. Matthis
- 1871 George V. Matthis
- 1872 E. Warfield
- 1873 E. Warfield, 50 Anniversary
- 1874 Otto Davis
- 1875 James C. Poston
- 1876 James C. Poston
- 1877 Thomas A. Orr
- 1878 Joseph H. McGlemany
- 1879 Elisha Warfield
- 1880 R. M. Pringle
- 1881 J. C. Poston
- 1882 H. N. Holdsworth
- 1883 J. C. Poston
- 1884 B. Wheeler
- 1885 Otto Davis
- 1886 Samuel Goldnamer
- 1887 Samuel Goldnamer
- 1888 Quince W. Johnson
- 1889 Elisha Warfield
- 1890 H. W. English
- 1891 H. W. English
- 1892 Samuel Goldnamer
- 1893 Horace W. English
- 1894 H. W. English
- 1895 Isaac T. Miller
- 1896 F. G. Corley
- 1897 Frank G. Corley
- 1898 Frank G. Corley 75 Anniversary
- 1899 Louis Goldnamer
- 1900 Louis Goldnamer
- 1901 C. J. Quiggins
- 1902 P. K. English
- 1903 Isiah Miller
- 1904 I. T. Miller
- 1905 I. T. Miller
- 1906 Lewis Goldnamer
- 1907 John M. English
- 1908 I. T. Miller
- 1909 J. R. Ashlock
- 1910 J. R. Ashlock
- 1911 C. E. Morgan
- 1912 C. E. Morgan
- 1913 Louis Goldnamer, New Temple
- 1914 H. R. Barrow
- 1915 Louis Goldnamer
- 1916 R. A. Buckles
- 1917 J. F. Nall
- 1918 J. F. Nall
- 1919 George F. Tinsley
- 1920 J. F. Nall
- 1921 James M. Sinclair
- 1922 Horace Hays
- 1923 John R. Ashlock 100 Anniv.
- 1924 Albert Linton
- 1925 J. F. Nall
- 1926 A. H. Jenkins
- 1927 Conrad H. Cates
- 1928 Robert E. Day
- 1929 Henry H. Hart
- 1930 J. S. Hawkins
- 1931 Shelby P. Bale
- 1932 S. P. Bale
- 1933 O. L. Comstock
- 1934 Arthur A. Foote
- 1935 H. L. James, Jr.
- 1936 Marvin R. Self
- 1937 Conrad H. Cates
- 1938 Luther C. Huffman
- 1939 Claude E. Conner
- 1940 Claude E. Conner
- 1941 Morris W. Moser
- 1942 John Tilford Gardiner
- 1943 Horace E. McCullum, Jr.
- 1944 John Albert Gardner
- 1945 William Henry Lewis
- 1946 Walter Alexander Boone
- 1947 Willard Lee Winfrey
- 1948 William Robert Marsee 125 Anniv.
- 1949 Van Earl Allen
- 1950 Robert Henry Wiley
- 1951 John Henry Hart
- 1952 William R. Kunnecke, Jr.
- 1953 Joe Lee Pepper
- 1954 Chester Allen Stinson
- 1955 Walter B. Hawkins
- 1956 Charles Kendrick Butler
- 1957 Henry Hayes Burnett, Jr.
- 1958 Beverly Moore
- 1959 Roy G. Miller
- 1960 William T. Tillitson
- 1961 Darius Keen
- 1962 Ray Wilbur Lewis
- 1963 David M. Morrison, Temple 50 Ann.
- 1964 William R. Frank
- 1965 William Earle

1966 Robert C. Moore  
 1967 Billy G. Cofer  
 1968 Asa Hack  
 1969 David S. Armstrong  
 1970 Gordon K. Bagley  
 (From the 50th Anniversary book of Temple Morrison Lodge No. 76,  
 F & AM, July 18, 1963 with additional notes.)

ELIZABETHTOWN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES 1821

At a meeting of the board of Trustees for Elizabeth Town on Monday the 26th day of February 1821 at the Clerks Office Present Samuel Martin Robert Bleakley and James Park

Ordered that James Park be appointed Overseer of the streets of Elizabeth Town in place of George L Rogers who has removed

Ordered that the Office of Market Master be let to the lowest bidder on the 1st Monday in March at twelve o'clock before the Court house door

Ordered that the board adjourn

Saml Martin Pres

At a meeting of the board of Trustees of Elizabeth Town at the Court house in Elizabeth Town on Saturday the 17th day of March 1821 Present Samuel Martin President John Morris William Parcels

James Park & Robert Bleakley Trustees

Regulations for the Market in Elizabeth Town & C The Board of Trustees do make and establish the following rules for the government thereof 1st Market days on Wednesday and Saturdays in summer from daylight untill nine o'clock and in winter from daylight untill ten o'clock 2nd The Board to appoint a Clerk 3rd The clerk is to superintend the business of the Market during Market Hours and adjust the weight to seize any article that is either sold or offered or sold at and sell the same Immediately to the highest bidder and Render an account to the board He is to rent the stalls of the Market house and to collect the rents and pay them quarterly to the trustees to sweep and cleanse the Market house twice a week to keep a pair of small scales & weights for the use of persons wanting to weigh butter & C and when the business of the Market will permit to attend to the people himself and wigh the commodity they have for sale to seize all unwholesome provisions and if condemd by any two freeholders (Bystanders) to cause the same to be burnt at the expense of the owner or owners. He is to bring suit against person or persons that bring any thing so as to annoy the Market and fine him or them three Dollars 4th Any person or persons making any disturbance in the Market whereby the progress of the Market is obstructed to be fined three Dollars 5th Any person who shall attempt to obstruct the execution of any bye law of the town to be fined three Dollars 6th Any person bringing beer cyder or spiritous liquors into the Market during Market hours to Retail them all said liquors are seizable and the owner or owners to fined three Dollars 7th Any Hucster or other person who shall buy any article or articles by way of forestaling and shall sell again before the Market is over to be fined therr Dollars 8th All fines and for failures to be recovered before any Justice of the peace of the County of Hardin in the name of the trustees by the Clerk &

if the market On due proof the offence being made

On Motion made and seconded Lewis Quigley is appointed Clerk of the Market And he undertakes to perform the duties thereof for the sum of fifteen Dollars per annum which the board & their successors in office will pay at the expiration of the year And for every day regularly established as market days that the said Quigley shall neglect the duties of his office without a reasonable excuse a decuction of thenty five cents shall be made from his salary

Ordered that the Clerk of this board procure hasps Staples & locks to each of the market gates & have them well fastened on & deliver to the Market Clerk & render his account to this board & to be paid out of monies in his hands Also that the said Clerk make inquiry for a small pair of scales for the market house & if they can be procured on reasonable terms he may purchase them if there is money sufficient in his hands for that purpose & if the purchase is made to be paid in like manner

Ordered that the board adjourn

Saml Martin Pres

At a meeting of the board of Trustees of Elizabeth Town at the Clerks Office on Saturday the 2nd day of June 1821

Present John Morris James Park & William Parcels Trustees

On Motion made and seconded John Morris is elected President of this board protempore

On motion of Benjamin Ely Andrew Cavert & David Carter who propose of exhibiting a museum of wax figures & during the approaching June Term of the Hardin Circuit Court they are licenced and permitted to do so on paying to the Clerk of this board the sum of eight Dollars

Ordered that the Clerk of this board pay to James West two Dollars & fifty cents for drawing a plan of the market house

Samuel Haycraft Jr Clerk of this board Accounted to the board for all monies by him received up to this day from the last settlement including the balance then on hand Amounting to twenty four Dollars thirty five cents including the tax this day levied on Benja Ely & Co from which he is allowed the following credits

Paid Leonard B Parker	\$4
For pairs of Scales for Market house	
bought of Wm Patterson	\$5
For locks & to the market gates	\$3.50
For one years services	\$1
Amount ordered to be paid to Jas West	\$2.50
	\$21.00 (sic.)

Leaving a balance of three Dollars and thirty five cents in his hands which he is ordered to retain until the further order of this board

Ordered that the board adjourn

John Morris PP

TIDBIT In 1840 Hardin County had a population of 16,375 of which 2,278 were white males over the age of 21 and 3,062 were children between five and sixteen years of age. COLLINS HISTORY OF KENTUCKY page 335.

## SAMUEL HAYCRAFT (Continued)

Wm. H. Dix Corn Sheller & 12 Bottles of wine.  
 Stephen McMurtry,<sup>8</sup> the cloak presented me by Dr. B.F. Pope,<sup>9</sup> Obituaries of John Helm,<sup>10</sup> Sally Helm,<sup>11</sup> Lewis Helm,<sup>12</sup> Betty Haycraft,<sup>13</sup> Jacob Banmetre,<sup>14</sup> and Abraham Vanmetre,<sup>15</sup> and the engraving marked in memory of Bettie Haycraft, these I desire to remain upon the walls of the old mansion<sup>16</sup> as long as it remains in possession of my family and to be excepted from the division.

## FOOTNOTES

1. Sarah mariah was the wife of Stephen McMurtry of Hardin County, Kentucky.
2. Samuel Haycraft's wife's maiden name was Sarah Brown Helm. She was the daughter of Judge John Helm of Breckinridge County, Kentucky.
3. Efforts to identify Capt. Miller have proved unsuccessful. Haycraft might have had reference to Col. Nicholas Miller or Col. Christopher Miller.
4. Louisa Ann married William Dix of Breckinridge County, Ky.
5. Samuel Haycraft's mother-in-law was Sallie Brown Helm.
6. Margaret J. Poston was the wife of Charles D. Poston, once a Territorial Representative in Congress from Arizona. According to Haycraft's history he was appointed by President Abraham Lincoln and served in the Thirty-eighth Congress.
7. Dr. William Vaughn is described in Haycraft's history as a member of the "presbytery" of the Elizabethtown Baptist Church.
8. Stephen McMurtry was born in 1816 and died in 1897. He is buried in the Elizabethtown City Cemetery. Samuel Haycraft, Jr., inherited from his father a large tract of land on Mill Creek in Hardin County which in turn was inherited by his daughter Sarah Mariah who lived there with her husband on the farm for many years.
9. Dr. B.F. Pope is unidentified.
10. John Helm, the eldest son of Captain Thomas Helm, was born in Prince William County, Virginia, November 26, 1761. He was well educated for a practical surveyor and he commenced his dangerous occupation in hostile Indian country surveying land in Kentucky. In 1791 he served as a soldier under General St. Clair against the Indians. After many hardships and dangerous encounters, he managed to escape death and return home. He served as County Surveyor of Washington County, Kentucky, became Associate Judge under the old system as well as becoming a thrifty farmer. He farmed for awhile in Breckinridge County, later moving to Elizabethtown where he died April 3, 1840.
11. Sallie Brown Helm was the wife of Judge John Helm. They were married on March 22, 1787, in Haycraft's Fort.
12. Lewis Helm was born on Hardin's Creek, Washington County, Kentucky. When a child, he moved with his family to Sugar Tree Run in Breckinridge County. After his brother got established in business in Elizabethtown, he became a partner and continued business with various partners until his death in 1828.

13. Betty Haycraft, the third child of the Haycrafts, was named Elizabeth Jane. She was born in 1822 and died in 1826.
14. Jacob Vanmetre, the second, was born in Berkley County, Virginia, on October 4, 1762, and died in 1826.
15. Abraham W. Vanmetre, son of Jacob the second, was born in Hardin County, April 1, 1789. In 1831 he moved to Tazewell County, Illinois, and after his wife died in 1866, he resided with his son Edward A. Vanmetre, a merchant of Burlington, Iowa. He died November 11, 1868.
16. The "old mansion" to which Haycraft referred was a brick residence located at the corner of North Main and Poplar Streets. This was the first brick house in Elizabethtown and the Haycrafts moved into it in 1822 and lived in the same house the rest of their lives.

SPRING (Continued from page 2)

Although it was said that the early settlers afterwards recalled "old forting" days as some of the happiest times of their lives, the hardships they encountered were very real. It was a long, steep descent from Haycraft's fort on top of the hill to the cave spring and as this was the only source of water, it was necessary to make the hazardous trip often. This chore naturally fell to the women and if there was no one to accompany them for protection against a possible lurking Indian, they carried a gun as most of the women were well able to defend themselves. Margaret, intrepid wife of Samuel Haycraft, was no exception and had on one occasion to make the trip to the spring alone. As she neared the cave, her wary eye detected unmistakable Indian signs and she suspected one or perhaps more, of the savages might be hiding in the cave. Biding her time quietly in the underbrush growing around the cave, she waited until an Indian (there was only one) incautiously stuck his head out of the cave. Quickly raising her gun, she shot him in the head, killing him instantly.

The fort or station, as it became known, housed and protected the Haycrafts and other families from the forces of extreme weather and countless Indian attacks for upwards of sixteen years during the most rugged period of settlement in the valley. About 1796 after the Indian menace had subsided Haycraft was one of the first to build a home away from the fort. His two story double log house was located on the south side of Valley Creek about where the railroad tracks are at present and across from where his mill was located. It was the first mill built in Hardin County and famous because Thomas Lincoln, father of President Abraham Lincoln, helped build it. Location of the mill site was commemorated in the recent past by the establishment of the Haycraft Mill Park by the members of Green Space, Inc., a local group dedicated to preservation of the environment.

To date no trace of Haycraft's fort has been found. However, the cave spring flows along as vigorously as ever though no longer needed to sustain life as before. An immense osage orange tree standing sentinel near the top of the hill on which the fort was built may have witnessed the daily trips to and from the cave spring, Indian attacks on the fort, and hunters leaving and returning in the unending search for food.

Colonel Hynes also chose his location well for the large spring issuing out of large limestone rocks just off Highway 62 south of town still helps supply water for Elizabethtown. However, the large, bubbling spring at the foot of the hill on which Captain Helm built his fort has long since disappeared under Dixie Highway.

QUERIES

DURBIN

Need dates for Sarah Martha Durbin daughter of Mary Lizzie & Pius Durbin. Is she still alive? Dolly Marcum, Rt. 4, Hodgenville, Ky. 42748

HUTCHERSON

Need the father of Benjamin Franklin Hutcherson b 5 Aug 1838, d 17 Mar 1917, married Martha A. Brown. Janet Marcum, Rt. 2, Box 86, Magnolia, Ky. 42757

*June 24, 1987*

HARDIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
BITS & PIECES  
128 NORTH MAIN STREET  
ELIZABETHTOWN, KY 42701



Miss Grace Taber  
110 Crutcher St.  
City 42701