

*Bits and Pieces*  
*of Hardin County History*  
*Published by the Hardin County Historical Society*

Vol. II No. 2

Robert Beimdick, Editor

April 1981

HISTORICAL HUMOR  
The Kentucky Statesman  
April 2, 1829

The following has been furnished as a true copy from the original, supposed to have been written sixty years since by James Mason, whose death we published yesterday, at the age of 106.

To the Honorable the Commissioners of Excise

The humble petition of Barney O'Blaney, Patrick O'Fagan, Carney O'Conner, and Teage O'Regan to be appointed inspectors and surveyors, over lookers, vulgarly called excisemen, for the county of Cork, its own self in the kingdon of Ireland.

And whereas, we the aforesaid petitioners will both by night and by day, and all night and all day, and we will come and go, and walk, and ride, and take, and bring, and send, and fetch, and carry, and we will see all, and more than all, and everything, and nothing at all, of all such goods and commodities as may be, and can be, and cannot be liable to pay duty; and we, the aforesaid petitioners will at times and at no times at all, and at times past, be present, and be absent, and be backward and be forward, and behind and before and everywhere, and no where, and here and there, and no where at all; and we, the aforesaid petitioners, will come, and inform, and give information and notice, kuly, truly, and honestly, and wisely, according to the matter as we know, and by the knowledge of ourselves, and for every one of us, and no one at all, and we will not cheat the king any more than what is now lawfully practised.

And whereas, we the aforesaid petitioners, as we are gentlemen of reputation, and we are protestants, and we love the King, and will value him; and we will fight for him, and run for him, and from him, and after him, and one side of him, and the other side of him, to save him, or any of his acquaintances or relations, as fast, and much faster than lies in our power, and dead and alive, as long as we live and longer too. Witness our several and separate hands in conjunction, one after another, all together, one and all three of us both together.

Barney O'Blaney  
Patrick O'Fagan  
Carney O'Conner  
Teage O'Regan of Charley Mont.

SOCIETY'S OFFICERS

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LINCOLN HERITAGE HOUSE

The annual festival for the Lincoln Heritage House will be held on Saturday, Sept. 12, 1981 at the house in Freeman Lake Park. If you are interested in participating with talents, hobbies or money making projects, write or call for reservations or further information: Miss Louise Patterson, 509 N. Mulberry St., Elizabethtown, Ky. 42701 Phone: 1-502-765-4349 or Mrs. Susan Figg, Rt. 5, Elizabethtown, Ky. 42701 Phone: 1-502-737-7599.

QUERIESVAN METER

Need information on Jacob Van Meter whose daughter Ruth m. 17 Sept. 1797 in Hardin County Thomas Davis. Henry Bruner, U. S. Hwy. 60 W, Hawesville, Ky. 42348.

CASH, VERTREES, HOBBS WILLIAMS

Need information on the above families. Early area Vine Grove, Rineyville and Elizabethtown. Grandmother Vira E. Cash Evans born in 1892 to Warren Harvey and Katie E. Vertrees Cash. Dr. Douglas R. Patten, 108 West "F" Street, Oakdale, California 95361.

CREAGER, SPRINGER, SCHMIDT, GLOVER, SWAN

Seeking parents, marriage data on: (1) Daniel A. Creager, b. 6 Oct. 1749, according to tombstone, d. 28 Jul 1848, Hardin Co., Ky. Poss. m. 1st. Springer, 2nd. Anna Barbara Schmidt, in Frederick Co., Md.; (2) Joshua Glover, d. 1829, in Hardin Co. m. Rachel, d. 1852, Hardin Co.; (3) Julius Swan, b. ca. 1797, in France, m. Sophia Hayden in Hardin Co., 10 Jun. 1829, their daughter Charlotte m. Joshua Creager. Carl Creager, 1512 Carolina St. Apt. 63, Graham, Texas 76046.

PHILLIPS

Desire more information on Phillip Phillips and John Phillips mentioned in early Hardin County records. Desire to correspond with anyone working on Phillips line. Have Phillips in Mercer, Ohio, Hancock and Daviess Counties. Believe there may be a connection. Mrs. Nina (Lyons) Hughes, 1195 S. Durkee Road, Grafton, Ohio 44044. SASE please.

COURT ORDER BOOK, HARDIN COUNTY, KENTUCKY, 1794

At a court held for Hardin County on Tuesday the twenty-sixth of August, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-four...

Present, Patrick Brown, Robert Hodgen and Bladin Ashby, Gentlemen Justices. William Brownfield appelant against Jacob Rhoads appelee; upon an appeal from a Magistrates Judgment...

This day came the parties by their attorneys and the cause being argued, on consideration whereof it is the opinion of the Court that the original judgment be confirmed and that the appelee go thereof without any (?) and recover against the appelant his costs by him in this behalf expended.

An inventory and appraisement of the estate of John Swank deceased was returned and ordered to be recorded...

The last will and testament of Jediah Ashcraft deceased was produced in court by the oath of John O'Daniel one of the subscribing witnesses thereto and ordered to lay for further proof...on the motion of Ann Ashcraft Executrix therein named who made oath thereto and together with Edward and William Brownfield her securities who entered into and acknowledged their bond in the penalty of six hundred pounds as the law directs certificate is granted her for obtaining a probate in due form...

Ordered that Isom Enlow Isaac Larue Joseph Kirkpatrick and Zepheniah Bell or any three of them being first sworn do appraise in currant money the estate of Jediah Ashcraft deceased and return an inventory and appraisement thereof to the next court...

Present, John Vertrees, Gentleman Justice.

An indenture of Bargain and Sale from James Bonn (?) and Mary his wife to Zachariah Dowet for one hundred acres of land was acknowledged by the said James and she being examined as the law directs relinquished her right of dower and the same was ordered to be recorded...

A deed from James Brown and Mary his wife to Peter Portmiser for one hundred and eighty-five acres of land was acknowledged and ordered to be recorded she being privately examined as the law directs...

A deed from James Brown and Mary his wife to Thomas Hargis for two hundred acres of land was acknowledged by the said James and Mary was ordered to be recorded she being privately examined as the law directs relinquished her right of dower...

Ordered that Thomas Helm Jacob Vanmeter, senior and Enoch Berry be appointed to view examine inspect and report whether the publick jail is built agreeable to the dementions or not and made report that they (thought) it was...and thereupon it is considered by the court that the said jail be received...

Ordered that John Vertrees and Patrick Brown settle with the Sheriff of the county levies put into his hands to collect and make report of the said settlement to the next court...

Ordered that Peter Portmiser's ear mark be recorded which is as follows: a crop in the left ear and a slit in the same...

Thomas Hargese's ear mark is as follows: a crop in the right ear and two swallow forks in the same which was ordered to be recorded...

The affidavits of Rhoda Gum, Sarah Skaggs, Peter Bell, Henry Bell and James Watkins purporting the nuncupative will of Nathaneal McComas deceased and on consideration whereof it is the opinion of the court that the same be established as the last will and testament of the said deceased... ordered that court be adjourned until tomorrow morning eight o'clock.  
P. Brown  
G.W.

#### FUNERAL NOTICES

The funeral of George V. Matthis will take place from the Methodist Church in Elizabethtown tomorrow (Tuesday) afternoon at 2 o'clock. The burial will be conducted by the Masonic and Knights of Honor orders. Interment in the Town Cemetery. Sept. 26, 1881.

Yourself and family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral of Mrs. Louisa A. Coyle which will take place from the Catholic Church at 9 o'clock AM tomorrow (Thurs.). Interment in the Catholic Cemetery, Elizabethtown, Ky. Oct. 22, 1884.

The funeral service of Mrs. Lucy C. Hawkins, wife of W. C. Hawkins, Sr., will take place at the Methodist Church tomorrow (Sun.) afternoon at 2:30 o'clock. Interment in the Town Cemetery. Elizabethtown, Ky. July 22, 1882.

The Funeral Service of Mrs. Elizabeth K. Raubold will take place this evening, Friday, June 5th, at the residence of her son-in-law, J. Foerg, at 3 o'clock. Interment in City Cemetery. The friends and acquaintances of the family are invited to attend.

The Funeral Service of Clarence Tachau, infant son of R. D. and S. E. Geoghegan will be held at the residence of R. D. Geoghegan, Esq., at Three and One-Half O'clock this evening; after which the concourse will form in procession and proceed to the Town Cemetery, where interment will take place. Wednesday Morning, May 13, 1868.

The funeral of Martha Elizabeth, daughter of E. S. and K. T. Brown, will take place this evening at 3 o'clock. The procession will form at the family residence and proceed from thence to the Town Cemetery. The friends and acquaintances of the family are invited to attend. Jan. 22, 1848.

CLAGETT FAMILY

by Robert Thomas Clagett DMD 1923-

The name means Clay-Gate and is derived from a tiny village called Claygate in County Kent, England. The first example of its use as a surname is Roger de Claygate, who lived in Kent in the 1100's. Our family can be traced back, with full proof, to one Robert Claygate or Clagett, of Malling, Kent, who was born about 1490. From then on the line is definite and certain. It involves descent from such English families as Godden of Leybourne Castle, Colbrand of Sussex, and Adams, baronets, of Shropshire and London. The family is entitled to bear a handsome coat of arms.

Capt. Thomas Clagett of Maryland, founder of the largest Clag(g)ett family in the United States, was the son of Col. Edward and Margaret (Adams) Clagett, of London, and the great-great grandson of Robert Claygate of Malling. He has many descendants, not only in Maryland, but also in Virginia, Kentucky, Missouri, Tennessee, Ohio, California, Oregon and elsewhere. Other settlers were Wyseman Clagett (great-nephew of Capt. Thomas), who came to New Hampshire about 1755; Caleb Claggett, who settled in Rhode Island about 1708; and Isaac and Richard Clagett, brothers from County Kent, who came over in the 1820's and left descendants in the upper Middle West.

Among the American Clag(g)etts and their descendants are Major Horatio Clagett (1757-1815), of the Continental Army, one of the founders of the Society of the Cincinnati; William Horace Clagett (1838-1901), known as "the silvery-tongued orator of the West", who while a congressman from Montana Territory introduced the legislation establishing Yellowstone National Park and the national park system; Thomas John Claggett (1743-1816), first Bishop of Maryland and first Episcopal bishop consecrated in the United States; Clifton Claget (1762-1829), United States Congressman from New Hampshire; John Alexander Murray, the present Earl of Dunmore, in Scotland; Major Thomas William Clagett, of the British Army in India, who married the Countess of Harborough; Gen. Thomas Fielder Bowie (1808-1869), and Lansdale Ghiselin Sasscer (1893-1964), both of whom represented Southern Maryland in Congress; James Wolcott Wadsworth (1877-1952), United States Senator from New York; James Jeremiah Wadsworth (b. 1905), Ambassador to the United Nations in the Eisenhower administration, and presently a member of the Federal Communications Commission; Charles Linza McNary (1874-1946), United States Senator from Oregon, and Republican vice presidential candidate in 1940; Dr. Leonard Carmichael, former president of Tufts University and head of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington; Edwin Warfield (1848-1920) and Albert Cabell Ritchie (1876-1936), Democratic governors of Maryland; Henry Prather Fletcher (1873-1959), Ambassador to Chile, Mexico, Belgium and Italy, and Chairman of the Republican National Committee; Gen. John Summerfield Griffith (b. 1829), of the Confederate Army; Cass Gilbert (1859-1934), noted architect who designed among other buildings, the United States Supreme

TITHABLES FOR HARDIN COUNTY, 1796

The whereabouts of the first tax list taken of Hardin County has baffled historians for years. That it was taken by Samuel Haycraft, as directed by the court on August 27, 1793, is of record in his report of December 24, 1793. Haycraft's was a remarkable achievement considering the size of Hardin County at that time. Collins in his history notes that Hardin County was 140 miles long with an average width of nearly 50 miles, extending from Salt River and the Rolling Fork on the east to Green River on the west, containing 606 square miles.

Recently it was discovered that the list had been put on microfilm by the Kentucky Historical Society and a copy is in the Brown-Pusey House Library. Only the "A's" and the "B's" of the 1793 list are shown but they are so blurred as to be unreadable and the lists for 1794 and 1795 are no better. However, the 1796 list is easily decipherable and we will publish the entire list as space permits. Spelling uncorrected.

Ashby, Thompson	Brownfield, William	Case, Elizabeth
Adams, Martha	Brown, James B.	Carnahan, John
Adams, Joseph	Brunk, Jno.	Crail, Richard
Anderson, Jonathan	Brandy, Richard	Close, George
Anderson, Atheal (?)	Bozarth, David	Casinger, Solomon
Allentharp, John	Brownfield, Edward	Clemmons, Thomas
Ashcraft, Anna	Bardmess, John	Casinger, Andrew
Alexander, Creasy	Bush, Samuel	Clive, Jno.
Ashby, Bladen	Bredine, Aaron	Casinger, Joseph
Ashcraft, Samuel	Berry, George	Clemmons, William
Anderson, John	Barris, Boaz	Crafford, Thomas
Atherton, Aaron	Barnet, Robert	Crafford, ?
Atherton, John	Baird, Robert	Coe, Timothy
Atherton, Wm.	Brown, John	Cammaron, Andrew
Avit, Richard	Branis, Adam	Churchill, Armstead
Allison, J.	Briner, Jacob	Cleon, Stephen
Arnold, Joseph	Baird, Adam	Coleman, Martin
Anderson, William	Brown, Thomas	Colman, George
Bardmess, George	Beck, Jno.	Cravins, Jeremiah
Bardmess, Henry	Brunk, Jacob	Cravens, William
Bardmess, Peter	Bennet, Alexander	Comstock, William
Brown, James	Bradley, James	Carmichael, James
Brown, Lemiel	Barney, David	Claycomb, Frederick
Baird, James	Beard, James	Creal, Jacob
Barney, Enoch	Belan, John L.	Clark, Israel
Barton, Theophilus	Burch, William	Calloway, Chester
Bozarth, John	Coy, Daniel	Creamer, John
Brown, Dickson	Coy, William	Calehan, Patrick
Bozarth, John	Coy, John	Custaid, Banner
Brownfield, Richard	Coy, Mathias	Cravens, Dave
Byers, Samuel	Crady, David	(to be continued)
Brown, Patrick	Carnahan, John L.	

Court building; Samuel Barrett Pettengill (b. 1886), former United States Congressman from Indiana; Blair Lee III (b. 1916), presently active in Maryland politics; Judges Charles Clagett Marbury and Hall Hammond, present members of the Court of Appeals of Maryland; Col. Harry Smith Berry, of Nashville, after whom that city's Berry Airport is named; Albert Rhett Stuart (b. 1906) and Charles James Kinsolving (b. 1904), the present Episcopal bishops of Georgia and New Mexico, respectively; George Lynn Lackland Davis, Thomas John Chew Williams, and John Clagett Proctor well-known Maryland historians.

PETITIONS (continued) Number 4

To The Honorable The Speaker & Gentlemen Of The House Of Delegates Of Virginia.

The Petition of Thomas Slaughter on behalf of himself & the other inhabitants situate near Kentuckke humbly sheweth; That the said Inhabitants are exposed to the incursions & depredations of the Indians & from the small number are incapable of protecting themselves. & this inconvenience is greatly increased on Account of the melitia's not being imbodyed. The Petitioner therefore humbly prays that some method may be fixed on to protect & defend the said inhabitants & if in the meantime military Commissions were issued for training the militia of the place a smaller number of men to act in conjunction with the said militia would answer the end desir'd.

Your Petitioner humbly submits the Premises to the consideration of the honorable house & hopes such relief will be afforded as the exigence of the Case requires.

(signed) Thomas Slaughter

Endorsement on the back of the petition: Thomas Slaughter October 11th, 1776. Ref'd to Com. on state of the country.

Number 6

To The Honorable House Of Delegates For The Commonwealth Of Virginia

The Petition of the Inhabitants of the County of Kentucky humbly sheweth, . . . That your Petitioners are and have for some time past been almost destitute of the necessary Article Salt. That by reason of the Incursions of the different Nations of Indians this year past we have been prevented from making what Quantities would be necessary for ourselves and Families as we formerly did, for small Parties would be in great Danger of being cut off and larger ones could not be spared from the defence of the Families.

That as bountiful Nature hath plentifully furnished this Country with Salt Springs where at a small expence Salt might be made in abundance many of which are claimed by Persons resident in this State who have never been at any Pains or Expence to erect Manufactories at them which if done would be very Beneficial to not only adjacent Settlers but also interior Inhabitants of this Commonwealth -

"MYSTERY BOOK"

Recently, this undated, handwritten Index marked "Unknown" was found in the Hardin County Court House. There is no clue to its purpose but it contains the names of several early inhabitants of the area.

Samuel Abet (Alele)  
 William Brown, Sr.  
 James Crutcher & Son  
 James Crutcher  
 Thomas S. Crutcher  
 John L. Chastain  
 Stephen Chastain  
 John Churchill  
 Cadwallader Churchill  
 Isaac C. Chenoweth  
 Miles H. Chenoweth  
 Mathew M. Culley  
 Benjamin Chapeze  
 William Fairleigh  
 Garrard Goodin  
 Benjamin Helm  
 George Helm  
 Samuel Haycraft, Jr.  
 Henry P. Helm  
 John Hodgen  
 Daniel Hayden  
 Joshua Hobbs  
 James M. Hackley  
 James Larue  
 Jacob Larue, Jr.  
 William Larue  
 Jacob W. Larue  
 Squire Larue  
 Robert McClure

John Miller  
 James Miller  
 Samuel Martin  
 John McDowell  
 D. R. and J. Murray  
 John Morris  
 Richard May  
 Thomas Neill  
 James Park  
 James Percefull  
 Samuel Percefull  
 Henry A. Pasley  
 Stephen Rawlings, Sr.  
 Richard Rudd  
 Andrew Rowan  
 John Redman  
 Benjamin Shacklett  
 Shaver & Allen  
 Benjamin Shaver  
 John Shackelford, Jr.  
 Thomas L. Slaughter  
 John Shacklet, Senior  
 Horatio G. Wintersmith  
 James H. Wortham  
 R. Walker  
 Benjamin Wright  
 Charles  
 Wortham  
 William G. Young  
 James Young

G. W.

CIVIL WAR CANNON BALLS

Elizabethtown suffered bombardment in a direct military attack in late December, 1862. General John Hunt Morgan's Confederate Raiders fired 107 shots of grape and shell from the top of Standpipe Hill through the center of town. One cannon ball struck the wall of a building on the public square and became embedded. It can still be seen there today.

A three story brick building, a combined residence and store room in the northwest corner of the public square owned and occupied by Dr. Samuel Anderson, Sr., at the time, sustained a direct hit. According to historian Samuel Haycraft, Jr., a stray ball crashed through a window and killed two of a detachment of soldiers placed in the third story. It then passed through the opposite wall making a hole nearly as large as a barrel.

Another cannon ball lodged between two windows of the living room of the Helm, Williams, Stewart, Pittman house at 210 Helm Street, then occupied by Reverend Samuel Williams. At that time, the entrance of the house faced Mulberry Street through a copse of wild cherry trees. According to Mr. Robert B. Stewart of Montgomery, Alabama, grandson of Reverend Williams, the ball was removed a few years later and it is now in his possession. G. W.

#### EARLY WATER COURSES IN HARDIN COUNTY

Early tax lists of Hardin County, as well as all of Kentucky, showed the water course, if any, on which a tax payer's land was located. It became customary for the inhabitants, in referring to other persons to say, "He lives over on the Rolling Fork or he lives on Nolin." The names of the water courses are interesting as some are named for their characteristics, others are named for certain events that took place on or near them and some are named for their first owner. In most cases they are further identified as a branch, run, creek, fork, or river. Those legible in the 1796 tax list are:

Nolin River	Kimbleton	Cave Br.
Caney Creek	Stewart	Youngers Cr.
Rolling Fork River	Monday	Billins Cr.
Lotts Run	Rhudes Cr.	Long Fall
Valley Creek	Pawley Cr.	Sugar Tree Run
Rough River	Camp Cr.	Flat Cr.
Barren	Bear Cr.	South Fk. Nolin
Bozarth	Buffalo Cr.	Salt Lick Cr.
Big Clifty	Green River	Dugan
Little Clifty	Lingard	Dorrits Run
Beach Fk.	Rawlings	Glover Cr.
Otter Creek	Lin Camp Creek	Severns Valley Cr.
Hardin	Clan Run	Mill Cr.
Dorett	Licking	Clear Cr.
Logan Cr.	Blandford Cr.	Jollys Run
Duvals Cr.	Meeting Cr.	Martins Cr.
No. Fk. Rough	Middle Cr.	Round Stone Cr.
Bush or Bushey	Panther Cr.	
Freeman Cr.	Cedar Cr.	
Milt Cr.	Pond Cr.	
Benson	Teachers Fk.	
Browns Run	Parepoint	
Salt River	Lugan	
Drennons	Alen	
Cartwrights Cr.	Hawkins Cr.	
Pottingers Cr.	Short Cr.	
wilson	Blevins Fk.	
Howards	Ruddles Cr.	
Knob Creek	Benson	
Ohio River	Indian Br.	

G.W.

Another cannon ball lodged between two windows of the living room of the Rev. Williams, Stewart, Pittman house at 219 Main Street, then occupied by Reverend Samuel Williams, at that time, the entrance of the house led to its purpose. The entrance of the house led to its purpose. The entrance of the house led to its purpose.

EARLY WATER COURSES IN HARDIN COUNTY  
Early tax lists of Hardin County, as well as all of Kentucky, showed the water courses. It may be noted that the water courses are named for the persons to whom they were located. It is interesting to note that the water courses are named for the persons to whom they were located. It is interesting to note that the water courses are named for the persons to whom they were located.

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

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