

C.S.A. Veteran & Widow's Indigent Pension Applications Returned to County

By Susan Evans McCrobie, HCHS Member

In 1967, twelve boxes of county records were relocated to the archives in Frankfort, Kentucky for permanent storage. This was only one of the many customary shipments made by both the county and circuit courts over a period of years, necessitated by the lack of space in the Fife Courthouse housing centuries worth of county documents.

Recently some boxes have been recalled from storage at the state archives including one box containing two bundles of Confederate pension applications made by local residents.

These first person accounts are a treasure trove of information for genealogists and historians alike.

New facts about my own great-great-great-grandfather, Daniel Thomas Keith, and his brother-in-law, George Helms, are included in the pages of the yellowed, folded, sworn statements.

Elvin Smith, Jr. was quick to point out an interesting and timely piece of information on another application while scanning over the documents.

In the April 15, 1912 soldiers' application for pension to the State of Kentucky by J.W. Mason, the weather conditions of the 1862 Christmas Raid are alluded to by this old solder. The permanent effects of war to one who served the Stars and Bars with distinction are specifically stated in the writing.

That application has been reprinted here in order for society members to experience first hand what Kentucky Confederate Pensions have to offer in the way of factual evidence and insight on the human aspect of war for a local resident.

Following Mason's death on November 28, 1917, his widow, the former Alice B. Smoot, also applied for a pension based upon her husband's service. The Elizabethtown resident restated much of the information contained in her husband's original application adding that their "children all married & gone, "I am alone." That application is also found in the recalled box.

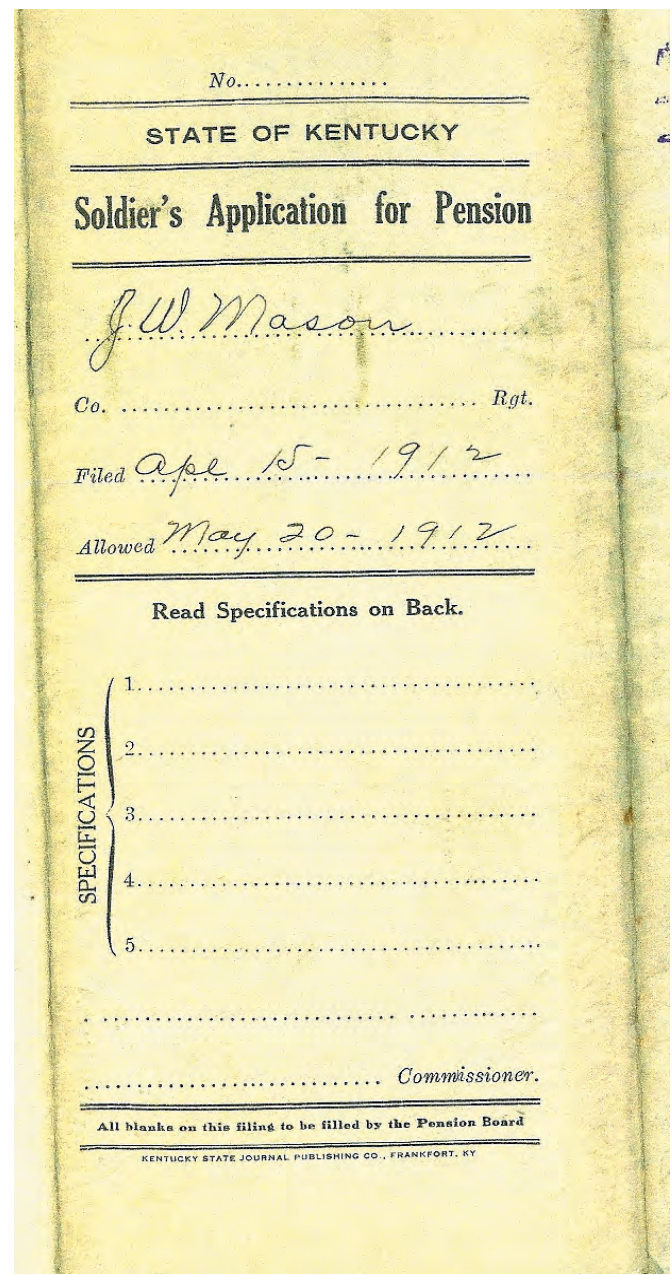


Photo Courtesy of Kenneth L. Tabb, Hardin County Clerk
Jacket for Confederate Soldier's Pension Application
for Hardin County resident James W. Mason.

(DUPLICATE)

Soldier's Application for Pension

I, J. W. Mason
am a citizen of Kentucky, resident at Elizabethton in the County of Hardin
in said State of Kentucky, and was a soldier from the State of Kentucky, in the war between
the United States and the Confederate States and I do hereby apply for aid under the Act of the General Assembly of
Kentucky, entitled "An Act granting pension to disabled and indigent Confederate soldiers." And I do solemnly swear
that I was a member of Co. Me. Capt Wm Jones
2. Ky Cavalry, & afterwards consolidated
with Co.
in the service of the Confederate States, and that by reason of disability and indigence I am now entitled to receive the
benefit of this Act. I further swear that I do not receive aid or pension from any other State, or from the United States,
and that I am not an inmate of any soldier's home, and that I am unable to earn a reasonable support for myself and fam-
ily. I do further solemnly swear that the answers given to the following questions are true:

In what County, State and year were you born?

Answer in Warren Co Ky on 6 day of Nov
1843,

When did you enlist and in what command? Give the names of the regimental and company officers under whom you
served?

Answer Enlisted Aug 15th 1862 in Hartsville Tenn
in 2nd Ky Cavalry & afterwards consolidated
with Co. Basell Duke Col. Wm Jones Capt

How did you get out of the army, when and where?

Answer Wasin Raid in Ky in Dec 1862 & got feet frost
bit & was left in De Bablo Tenn & remained there until
Were you ever in prison? If so, state what prison and when released. 1864 winter or fall

Answer No

Were you paroled? If so, when and where?

Answer

Did you take the oath of allegiance to the United States Government?

Answer Yes in the fall or winter of 1864 as I was not
able for any duty,
If so, when and under what circumstances?

Answer in the fall or winter of 1864 I lost five toes off
of one foot & two off of the other in a raid in Ky
in Dec 1862 and got to De Bablo Tenn and
being unable for duty, I remained there until
the fall or winter of 1864

In what business are you now engaged, if any, and what do you earn?

Answer *Blacksmith. Made \$150. last year*

What estate have you in your own right, real and personal, and what is its actual cash value?

Answer *own house lot which cost \$800. owe \$230. on it. personally property worth \$75.00*

What estate has your wife in her own right, real and personal, and what is its actual cash value?

Answer *she has no real estate or personal property.*

State the net income of yourself and your wife from all sources for the past year. This must include all money received either from wages, rents or interest on loaned money, if any.

Answer *\$150 is all the income we made or received last year. I am not able to do much labor.*

Do you use intoxicants to any extent?

Answer *No*

How long and since when have you been an actual resident of the State of Kentucky?

Answer *all my life*

Have you an attorney to look after this application?

Answer *Yes*

If so, give his name and address?

Answer *S. H. Bush, Elizabethtown Ky*

Witness my hand this *15* day of *April* 191*2*

WITNESSES:

J. C. Mobley, Physician

Postoffice Address *Elizabethtown*

Joseph Sullivan, Witness

Postoffice Address *Conover Ky*

B. J. Kure, Witness

Postoffice Address *Conover*

G. W. Mason
P. O. *Elizabethtown Ky*

Street and No. (if any).....

R. F. D. (if any).....

STATE OF KENTUCKY

Hendin County } I, *D. O. Riden* Judge of said County,

certify that *G. W. Mason* and his wife *Will Bell Mason* are

assessed with *1 tract of land*, valued at \$*500.*, and with \$..... of personal property.

Witness my hand this *15* day of *April*, 191*2*

D. O. Riden Judge County Court.

If applicant and his wife have no property, the Judge must so certify.

STATE OF KENTUCKY

Hardin } County } Personally appeared before me, S. H. Bush
a Notary Public of said County, the above named J. W. Mason
the applicant, with whom I am personally acquainted, and having the application read and fully explained to him, as
well as the statements and answers therein made, made oath that the said statements and answers are true.

Witness my hand and seal of office, this 15 day of April, 1912
S. H. Bush N.P.H.C.

STATE OF KENTUCKY

Hardin } County } Personally appeared before me, S. H. Bush
a Notary Public of said County, the above named Dr. J. C. Mobley
one of the subscribing witnesses to the foregoing application, and who is a physician of good standing, and being duly
sworn says that he has carefully and thoroughly examined J. W. Mason
the applicant, and find him laboring under the following disabilities: Unable to earn a support by manual labor.

The destruction of all of his toes, and
part of phalanges of left foot, and
two of right foot given frost bite,
Hypertrophy of prostate glands,
Arteriosclerosis.

Extremely stooped shouldered
J. C. Mobley M.D.

Witness my hand and seal of office, this 15 day of April, 1912
S. H. Bush

(If possible, the two witnesses as to character should have served with the applicant in the army, and if so, let them, or either, state it in their oath;
also any other information regarding applicant's army service.)

STATE OF KENTUCKY

Hardin } County } Personally appeared before me, S. H. Bush
a Notary Public of said County, the above named R. S. Duvalle
and J. E. Sullivan, two of the subscribing witnesses to the foregoing application,
with whom I am personally acquainted, and known to me to be citizens of veracity and standing in this community, and
who make oath that they are personally acquainted with the foregoing applicant, and that the facts set forth and state-
ments made in this application are correct and true, to the best of their knowledge and belief, and that they have no in-
terest in this claim, and that said applicant's habits are good and free from dishonor. And we

further make oath to the following facts touching the applicant's service in the army.

State here what witnesses know of their own knowledge.

We have known J. W. Mason for
over 40 years. We know that Mason
has from the time we first knew him,
that he always said he was in the
Confederate Army, that he has lost
half of one foot and of the other foot.
We were both in the Joseph Sullivan
Confederate Army.

Witness my hand and seal of office, this 15 day of April, 1912
S. H. Bush N.P.H.C.

Really BIG^{o l d} TREE

By Susan Evans McCrobie, HCHS Member

ELIZABETHTOWN, KY- Robert Bean with the Division of Forestry recently made a visit to Murphy Drive in Elizabethtown at the request of David Pepper to examine a really big tree on his newly acquired property. Bean, Pepper, and the city of Elizabethtown now has some real bragging rights.

This old beech tree measures 7 points larger than the current state record holder located at the Cave Hill Cemetery in Louisville.

The really big tree measures 16 feet and 3 inches in circumference at 4 1/2 feet above ground with a height of 92 feet and a spread of 92 feet.

Not all things as tall as they are wide portray such elegant beauty as this majestic giant estimated to be some two hundred years or more old.

The American Beech tree, *Fagus gradifolia*, remembered by some as the tree with messages carved in its smooth gray bark is a fairly common tree found mostly in moist woods, not in areas cleared and revegetated.

This stately giant also has its share of initials and names scarring its trunk.



Daniel Boone recorded his hunting success on a beech tree along a stage road in Tennessee: “D. Boone, Cilled A Bar, on Tree, in Year 1760.” Those who saw it could read the message until about 1880, and the tree lived until 1916 with the message scars still visible.

The tree was a delightful surprise for Bean who says the Division of Forestry held a big tree contest in the county about 4 or 5 years ago, with the winning tree honors going to a Sycamore at Colesburg, but no one ever pointed out this towering giant.

Pepper, a tree lover, says while searching for boundary markers to his new property he was excited to find the tree and quickly fell in love with the old giant.

He has received a certificate proclaiming the tree's state champion size.

Growing up in Elizabethtown and walking to school along Poplar street, Pepper says he passed another really big, old beech, one planted in 1841. When it was taken down about three years ago he was saddened, adding that while that tree was dropping limbs, when laid on the ground it was still solid inside.

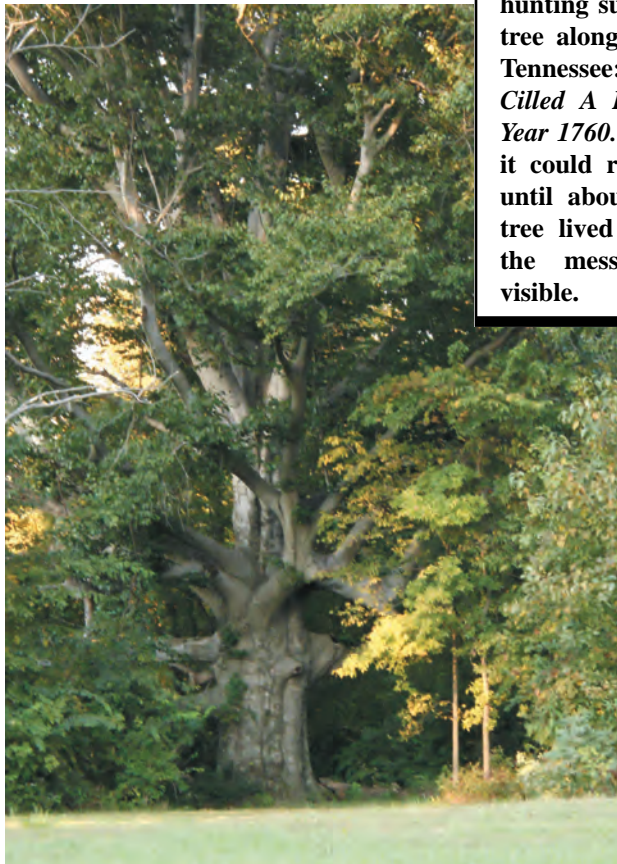
Pepper's champion size beech tree will have a champion in its preservation for years to come.

INTERESTING FACTS...

Beech trees, along with maple and birch, are the key deciduous species of Northern hardwood forests.

The pointed, sharply toothed thin leaves with straight veins that extend to the tip of a tooth are easily recognized. They tend to cling to the tree in that fall, lasting well into winter, adding a pale gold color to the drab winter forest.

Beech is one of the three nut producers of our forests along with oak and hickory. The three trees produce nuts on different cycles, so there is usually food for the animals.



Secrets Resurface

NEW STORIES SHARED ABOUT THE OLD TAVERN HOUSE

The Eagle House has an extremely long and interesting story as a focal point in our town's history. During the sesquicentennial year observances of an event that found this old tavern house/inn ravaged by war, the house and past inhabitants are giving up yet more secrets.

You may well remember the stories of the unexplained happenings in the old place. Just a little over a decade ago, the current owner, Larry Gream was part of a remodeling party that uncovered messages and one distinct drawing from the Civil War era on wallboard in attic space sealed off for years.

Just this spring, Gream as literally dug into restoration of part of the sprawling building only to uncover well defined wells once used to supply the old inn and most likely the stable at the rear of the establishment with a good source of water.

Centuries worth of land records at the county clerk's office have also been dug through after another startling discovery made during early July to verify claims of a story connecting the Eagle House's role during the Battle of Elizabethtown days.

Kenny Tabb received a telephone call from volunteers at the Elizabethtown Tourism and Convention Bureau requesting information by an out of town guest regarding the Eagle House and its location.

Our tourists were quite glad to learn the place still stood and eager to meet Tabb during the following hour to learn more about the building and its history.

This meeting turned out to be a sharing of history with Roger Elmore, of Kirksville, Missouri and his sister learning a little more about their ancestor's life and home and Tabb hearing a story about the Inn that was not a part of the old place's known colorful past.

Elmore's ancestors, William and Victoria (Zix) Gudehus spent just a few years in Elizabethtown, but they were very eventful years.

The following story is based from Victoria Gudehus' oral family history as related to her

granddaughter, Eleanor Christner, and preserved in manuscript that was shared with Tabb.

Victoria was William's second wife. His first wife, Hannah had died during childbirth. She and the baby are buried in Elizabethtown, Kentucky. William was a hotelkeeper of the "Eagle House" and a boot maker

with four children to care for. They lived at the "Eagle House" where Jenny Lind stopped for the night on April 5, 1851.

In 1860-1862 there were many skirmishes and three battles fought in the Louisville area. First the north came trough. The hotel, "Eagle House," was not destroyed

but all of their food was consumed and it was necessary for William to hunt to feed his family. The North could not pay. Then the South took over the town and river ports. Again the accumulated food was consumed. The South paid---but their money was valueless. The final blow came in 1862. The North again gained control of the river and supplies being shipped by water. Victoria had just given birth to Mina and confined to her bed. The General came to the hotel to tell them to evacuate. He was told the situation, so the General had the children join their mother in the bedroom---now there were eight---and

**"William Gudehus'
first wife died,
leaving him with five
children."**

-- Victoria Gudenhus

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Thursday 29. September 1869.
At a Special Term of the Hardin County Court
held at the Court House in Elizabethtown on
Thursday the 29. September 1869.
Present
J. W. D. Tolson County Judge
William Gudehus the day Clerk the Clerk of
the Court did solemnly and sincerely swear that
James M. Gudehus the Son of William Gudehus
do hereby certify that the facts stated above are
true and correct to the best of his knowledge.

Photo Courtesy of Kenneth L. Tabb, Hardin County Clerk

Gudenhus paid the county clerk ten dollars in 1859 and again in 1860 for a one year license to keep a tavern in Elizabethtown.

said he's try to save that room. Bullets entered and passed through the room. The mother and children on the bed, the older ones under the bed were saved. The hotel was not only riddled but also plundered. Just how the family existed Aunt Dora never said, but by 1867 they were in Pana [Christian County, Illinois.]”

Elmore went on to explain that William and Victoria went by train to Christian County and rented a small house there at Pana. William hunted and when the government made a settlement, because they had lost everything during the war, they were able to buy land and built a two-room loge house with a loft.

William and Victoria had eleven children, including Elmore's grandfather, Edward Benjamin, born in 1880.

Following the visit and the sharing of family history with Tabb, John Lay was requested to searched through the county clerk's records for mention of William Gudehus as earlier deeds failed to include him as a owner of the old tavern house/inn.

A special type of deed, Commissioner's Deed, told the story of Gudehus' contract for deed of the Eagle House and his failure to make good on the purchase.

One year after the Christmas Raid, William Gudehus had lost everything in a foreclosure.

Commissioner made this 24 day of Dec 1863 by and between
T. Hunter Special Commissioner of the Hardin Circuit Court
in the case of Joseph Parpley vs Wm Gudehus for on behalf of
Wm Gudehus on the first part & Joseph Parpley of the second
part Witnesseth that whereas an order was rendered in the
above named cause ordering T. Hunter master Com. of the
Hardin Circuit Court to sell so much of the home plot
in the petition named as would satisfy the debt adjudged
to be due from Wm Gudehus to Joseph Parpley; whereas the
said Commissioner made a report in said cause on the 8 day of June
1863 that he had sold the tavern house to the plaintiff in the
above action at the sum of fifteen hundred dollars which
report was affirmed by said court on the 14 day of Dec
1863 on a subsequent day the said Comr. was ordered to convey
for and on behalf of Wm Gudehus to Joe Parpley any Equity the
said Gudehus might have obtained by reason of the execution
of a Bond for the conveyance executed by said Parpley
to said Gudehus of the said Tavern house plot now in possession
of the parties I hereby convey unto said Joseph Parpley
any Equity the said Wm Gudehus may have obtained to the
Eagle House Tavern plot on which said Tavern is situated
by reason of the execution of the Bond above named Bond
In Testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my
name the day & date first above written

This Deed made this 23 day of June 1865 between Wm. G. Giddens
 by J. H. Hunter Special Commissioner of the Harbourn circuit
 Court in the Equity cause of Joseph Tarpley vs Wm. G. Giddens
 party of the first part and Joseph Tarpley of the second part
 Witnesseth that for and in consideration of the sum of Two
 hundred & fifty dollars the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged
 and by virtue of an order of said Court in said cause I
 hereby convey to said Joseph Tarpley his heirs and assigns
 a certain part of a stable lot lying in Elizabeth town Kentucky &
 being that part of the stable lot belonging to the Eagle House
 Tavern and not heretofore conveyed to the said Joseph Tarpley
 by the above named Commissioner in said cause and being
 part of the same lot conveyed by said Tarpley to said
 Giddens. So that the said Tarpley his heirs and assigns
 forever. The party of the first part hereby agrees to defend the
 title to the above described part of a lot from the claim of
 any and all persons claiming the same in any manner
 whatever.

In Testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my
 name the day & date first above written

Given and approved Jas S. Mark Judge J. H. Hunter Clerk
 At a Court continued and held for the Harbourn circuit

Photo Courtesy of Kenneth L. Tabb, Hardin County Clerk

The Hardin County Historical Society

Is Cordially Invited

to a Civil War Living History: Camp of Instruction

at Freeman Lake Park

Saturday, November 10, 2012

Event Hosted By The Hardin County History Museum

**CAMP OF INSTRUCTION PRESENTED BY
 THE FRIENDS OF PARDS OF THE WESTERN FEDERAL BLUES**

Learn the Lifestyle of the Common Western Federal Soldier

Local History Roots Link to Louis DuBois

By Judith Cummins French, HCHS Member

The life of Louis DuBois, the father of Sarah DuBois who married Joost Janse Van Meteren, closely parallels the life of the Van Meteren clan. Louis was known as “the Walloon”, the Walloons being residents of that part of Flanders lying between the Scheldt and the Lys and this was the area of France in which his family lived. It is difficult to give a full accounting of his activities and accomplishments in this short bio. I hope that it spurs your interest in learning more of this amazing family and probably your ancestors. There are sources that list Louis as a descendant of Charlemagne. Of course, after so many generations (approximately 31 from Charlemagne to Louis), it is a little difficult to be certain.

The reason for the migration of these families to the colonies was religionist freedom. They had moved many times in Europe in hopes of obtaining this, but with each move, they found difficulties. The final destination reached in New York as stated below.

Louis du Bois was baptized at Lille, 13 Nov 1626, married at Mannheim, 10 Oct 1655 to Catherine Blanchan. The du Bois and Blanchan families left France for a more welcoming atmosphere to the Huguenot faith in the German protestant principalities. As the search continued, Louis and his family later made their way to Holland and, from there, to New Amsterdam (New York City) in 1660 or 1661. It is thought that this family traveled on a ship named “St. Jan Baptist” which landed August 6, 1661. There they received a grant of land in Hurley, near Kingston, NY on 25 April 1663. Louis was the leader of a group of Huguenots and Dutch who purchased what is now New Paltz, NY from the Esopus Indians on 26 May 1677. The original contract signed by Louis du Bois, his partners, and five Indian chiefs is a treasured possession of the town. Louis was a leader of that town until 1686 when he moved back to Kingston where he lived until his death in 1696. He was a deacon in his church as well as community leader.

The story of the capture of women and children related in our previous story of the VanMeteren family also involved this family. Louis DuBois was in the party who rescued his family members as well as the VanMeterens.

The known children and their spouses are: Abraham married Margaret Deyo, Anna Maria Du Bois, Issac married Maria Haasbrouck, Jacob married (1) Lysbeth Vernoye (2) Gerritje Gerritsen, **Sarah, married Joost Janse Van Meteren**, David married Cornelia Vernoye, Solomon married Tryntje Gerritse Foochen, Rebecca, Rachel, Louis III married Rachel Haasbrouck, Mattheus married Sara Matthytsen, and Magdalena.



Message From The President

Greetings to all members,

With typical Kentucky weather, we have gone from hot to really cool in a matter of days. By the time this reaches you it probably will have changed a couple of more times. I am looking forward to seeing all of you at the Oct. 22nd when we will be welcoming the newest member of the Board, Ellen Morell as Treasurer.

By way in introduction, here is a short bio for Ellen. She moved to E-town in Jan of this year to serve as Priest for Christ Episcopal Church/Christ Lutheran Chapel. Ellen has three children, but they are all out of the house and living on their own. She has one English Bulldogs that she shows in Agility shows. (Note from Ellen: “Fortunately nobody told me that bulldogs do not do agility until we had been doing it for a year.”) Prior to being ordained as a priest, she worked with people making major planned gifts which taught me a lot about people, money, and tax law. Learning Spanish is a new challenge but that is not progressing very quickly, she adds. Her interests are reading, knitting, swimming, and yoga. Since coming to E-town, Ellen has become fascinated with the history of the area, starting with the church which was built in 1851. Many of the well known early residents of E-town attended Christ church including Emily Todd Helm played the organ for several years and Mrs. Churchill who is reported to still make an appearance from time to time. (I assume this is a reference to a ghost said to visit the church – note by Judy)

Let’s show her our “Southern Hospitality” and make her very welcome to our Society.

-Judith “Judy” Cummins French

“Never forget the importance of history. To know nothing of what happened before you took your place on earth, is to remain a child for ever and ever.”

-Anon.

Early Manufacturing Industry FIZZLES OUT

RARE CLUES TO A SONORA COMPANY SURFACE

Story and Photos by John R. Lay, HCHS Member



Something new that is both old and interesting shows up most weeks at the Hardin County History Museum.

Just a little over a week ago while Perry Hagan and a friend were at the museum Hagan mentioned a special glass bottle he knew of, one from the Perry Manufacturing Company located in Sonora, Kentucky and issued a challenge to discover more.

The county clerk's records were an excellent place to begin searching.

The business associated with the bottle incorporated on April 15, 1908, twelve years before the Schmidts begin bottling in Elizabethtown, with \$7500 worth of capital stock backed by E.E. Perry, J.A. Orr, and Stella Elliott.

Shortly thereafter, on May 9, 1908, the company once again filed articles of incorporation with the following investors/directors, John Brashear, J.D. Veirs, Hagan Bland, G.N. Chappell, Edward E. Perry, W. R. Perry and A.J. Vinson to commence business on May 12, 1908 at Sonora, Kentucky in the manufacture, buying and selling of ciders, vinegars, carbonated beverages, syrups, extracts, table condiments, and all such like goods.

SONORA

The Perry Mfg. Co. received a car load of bottles and cases Wednesday and is preparing to run on a large scale his season. The company was recently reorganized and incorporated with good men in it and we predict a good business this season.

The Friday, May 15, 1908 issue of The Elizabethtown News forecasts a successful business climate for the Sonora bottler.

According to the clerk's land records, the property where the operation was built was on a quarter acre of land in Sonora bounded by Broadway on the east, lots formerly owned by J.J. Rider on the north, by a street in front of Mr. James Mason's residence, on Eldorado street on the west and an alley near & joining Dr. W.A. Ligon on the south.

A trip to Sonora to search out the place yielded more discoveries.

While at Brooks' Cafe Mr. Stanley Copelin, a retired barber, confided that a big, tall, old barn of a building facing Eldorado had been the site of the bottling operation.

Mrs. Brooks, the owner of the eatery where the conservation was being held, spoke up to say she also owned a bottle from the establishment in question.

As a good story deserves retelling and at the monthly Ancestral Trails Historical Society meeting it was discovered that Carl Howell, a collector of many historical items of local interest, also has a Perry Manufacturing Company bottle at his home.

Three well preserved bottles but no mention of advertising of the product's sale has been found thus far.

It is your turn to add to the saga with facts regarding this early enterprise as we all look to preserve and share our county's long and rich history.

SONORA.

The Perry Manufacturing Co., of this place recently received some very flattering offers from the business men of Horse Cave to move their plant from here to that place and was about to accept when some of our citizens took hold of the matter and have offered inducements sufficient to keep the business here which we are proud to see as we would hate to see the business leave our town. Mr. E. E. Perry the principal owner and manager expects to do a much larger business this year than last although last year was very satisfactory.

Sonora area citizens report success in retaining local business in the Tuesday, April 28, 1908 issue of The Elizabethtown News.

Friendly reminder....

**YEARLY MEMBERSHIP
DUES HAVE INCREASED TO
\$12.00 AND ARE PAYABLE
JANUARY 1, 2013.**

PLEASE REMIT PAYMENT TO:

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

Historical Society announces next meeting



Glenda and Don Patterson
as
ELIZABETH AND ANDREW HYNES

The Hardin County Historical Society will meet Monday evening, October 22, 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, October 19th, for dinner reservations**; later reservations for the meal cannot be guaranteed.

The dinner is followed at 7 P.M. by a special mini docu-drama set to music, "West of the Alleghenies: The Founding of Elizabethtown, KY," written by Don Patterson and performed by a cast of many. This well written and enjoyable story depicts the chartering of Elizabethtown on July 4, 1798 and includes many of the early pioneer settlers of Severns Valley. You won't want to miss this great performance! Please remember to invite your family and friends to this wonderful showing as we close out another great year of study and remembrance of our great county heritage.