

# Letter from the Past

## NEWLY SHARED MISSIVE RECALLS DEMISE OF FELON IN TABLOID STORY OF THE MURDER OF THOMAS TILLERY

By Susan McCrobie, Hardin County Historical Society

Mary Jo Jones was a collector of genuine Bits and Pieces of Hardin County history such as newspaper clippings, photographs, letters, clothing, trinkets and books. In the months leading up to her move to Atria, she painstakingly began the task of sorting through the many years of living and collecting to place her treasures in the care of others that shared her appreciation for the past.

Two weeks before her death, Mary Jo visited Kenny Tabb with two letters that her father, Edmund Richerson, had received from Eddyville in April 1932. The story behind the writer of those letters was just as shocking as the content of the last words from the condemned man.

The headlines of the Thursday, April 9, 1931 Hardin County Enterprise began a yearlong story that kept locals spellbound and made introductions of Walter Holmes to Edmund Richerson.

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### THOS. TILLERY BRUTALLY MURDERED BY NEGROES.

Midnight Marauders Shoot and Beat Hardin County Farmer,  
After Committing Other Depredations.

THREE BANDITS CAPTURED AND LANDED IN JAIL.

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The very next day, the editors of the Elizabethtown News had this to say about the murder of Thomas Tillery...

*"It is difficult to write in restrained terms of the murder of Thomas Tillery, an excellent farmer of Hardin county, who was shot down in his own home at night-time by negro highwaymen.*

*No such wanton crime was ever committed before in the county's history.*

*Human life is not safe, and we feel the terror or gangland, when a peaceable, law-abiding citizen is called to his door, and murdered by roving fiends, who complete their work drag their victim, mortally wounded, from his house, and brutally assault him.*

*It was a crime without a single element of premeditation or extenuation, and when the framers of our Constitution fixed the death penalty as just punishment for extreme cases of murder they could not have conceived a more atrocious murder than the killing of Thomas Tillery.*

*Vigilance of the officers, and the law-abiding spirit of the people combined to defeat mob violence, though the circumstances were most provocative.*

*But there should be a speedy trial of each negro accused of*

*the murder, and in that trial the blood of Thomas Tillery calls for justice."*

Compared to today's standards the trial was indeed speedy. Tillery was shot and brutally beaten around midnight on Tuesday, April 7th and then delivered to Louisville, by ambulance, for medical treatment where he died the following day. On Thursday, April 9th a special term of the Hardin Circuit Court was called to try the three accused negroes that had been captured and a trial date scheduled. On Monday, April 20th, Walter Dewberry, Charles Rogers and Water Holmes were arraigned and indicted with the willful murder of Thomas Tillery. There were also charged with five counts of robbery. All entered 'not guilty' pleas and the trial was set for Tuesday, April 28th, exactly three weeks to the day after the murder, before Judge George Holbert. When the court was in adjournment the prisoners were returned to the Jefferson County Jail for safety as no bond had been set on the murder charges.

In an unprecedent move regarding the safety of the accused, those entering the courthouse for the grand jury hearing and indictment were searched for weapons and secrecy was maintained regarding prisoner transportation on that day.

When a negro attorney was named to appear as council for Walter Dewberry was allegedly assaulted and victims from as far as East St. Louis, Illinois arrived to attend the trial as rape and assault charges against Rogers and Holmes had been served, Hardin County Sheriff W.S. Long swore in thirty additional deputies to police the excited and growing crowd.

Twenty national Guardsmen were ordered to guard the county jail at night after the prisoners were moved to Elizabethtown from Louisville on the morning of the trial.

The courthouse doors were locked to the public after the seating capacity was filled. Every person who entered the courtroom was searched and the doors to the courtroom guarded. The jury was assigned guards, the courthouse aisles patrolled, the entrances from the street to the courthouse guarded and the motorist entering the city observed from assigned points.

All three men were found guilty of their heinous crimes in separate trials, sentenced to die by electrocution on June 15th, and taken to Eddyville penitentiary under heavy guard to await their fates.

Judge J.R. Layman, who was retained as assistant prosecutor by the Tillery family, said:

"I feel that the verdicts rendered will restore to our people a sense of security in the occupation of their homes and that no other verdict could have this result."

*Letter from the Past cont.*

The newspaper reported that the public tension relieved when the three were transferred to the state penitentiary as nerves were frayed by the five-days' continuous hearing, and the ordeal upon Court officials and attorneys and the injury upon local business by the excitement of the large crowd assembled to hear word of the trial as it was released from the courthouse door.

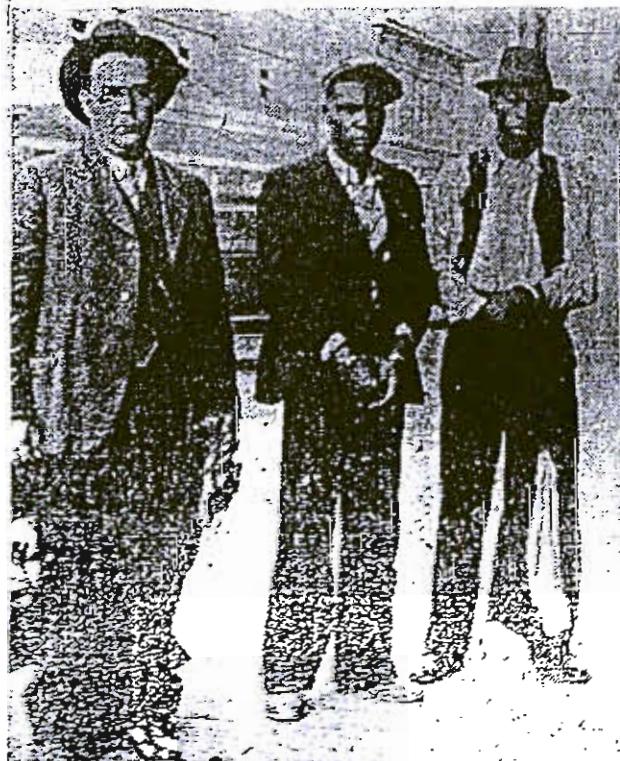
A second sign of relief was felt across the area when the death sentences were affirmed by the Kentucky Court of Appeals on Friday, December 18, 1931 as imposed by the Hardin Circuit Court on Walter Holmes, Charles Rogers and Walter Dewberry.

Walter Holmes and Charles Rogers were executed on Friday, April 29, 1932 for their part in the murder of Thomas Tillery.

As promised in his letter delivered to Edmund Richerson, Holmes who still claimed his innocence declared that he was not receiving justice and was forced to take the issue in hand and kill one man to know that he died for a just cause. He held the guards at bay for over an hour when summoned to the death chamber first using hot water and then a knife fashioned from the handle of a prison water bucket. One guard was stabbed in the stomach before Holmes was taken under control with the use of tear gas, lead from his cell and strapped into the chair after defiantly finishing a cigarette.

Walter Dewberry, the first of the three men convicted of murder, followed them to the electric chair on November 10, 1933. In his appeal, his lawyer, C. Eubank Tucker, a Louisville negro, cited the assault made upon him during the progress of the trial as a ground for a new hearing. While the appeal was denied and the imposed sentence carried out, residents agreed the period of stress surrounding the whole affair had not been equaled here.

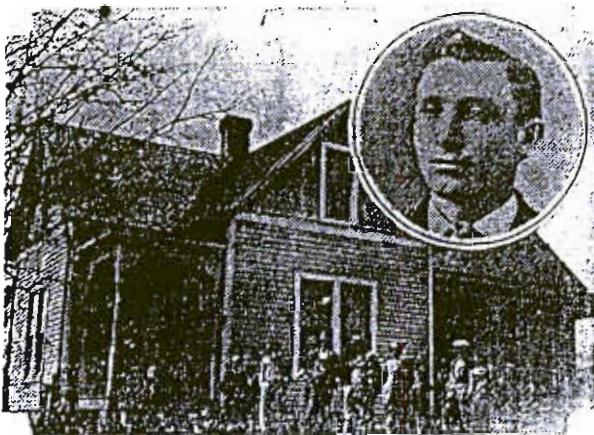
## DEPUTY SHERIFF HINES AND TWO OF THE ACCUSED NEGROES



*Photo Courtesy Elizabethtown News*

Deputy Sheriff H. W. Hines, Walter Dewberry and Charles Rogers were captured as the Hardin county official was preparing to turn over the prisoners to the Jefferson county jailer. Dewberry is in the center of the group.

## VICTIM OF MURDER AND HOME WHERE SHOOTING OCCURRED



The home of Mr. Tillery, where the shooting occurred, is situated about 50 yards from the Elizabethtown-Hodgenville road, and is about an equal distance from Middle Creek, which is the border line between Hardin and Larue counties. In the inset is a picture of Mr. Tillery taken when a younger man.

## Tabloid Story of the Murder of Thomas Tillery

**The Victim**—Thomas Tillery, aged fifty-seven years.

**Accused of the Crime**—Walter Dewberry, 22; Charles Rogers, 24, and Jack Strong, 30, all Chicago negroes.

**Time of Killing**—1:30 o'clock morning of April 8; Mr. Tillery died at 12:10 the same afternoon.

**Place of Killing**—Residence of Mr. Tillery, five miles southeast of Elizabethtown on Elizabethtown-Hodgenville road.

**Pleas of Accused**—Each negro admits firing shots at Tillery home, but denies his bullet was fatal. When first arrested each negro denied all knowledge of the crime.

**Trial Date**—Special term of Hardin Circuit Court called for April 20.

The following story reprinted from the Friday, April 10, 1931 edition of the Elizabethtown News was the first of many articles covering the crime spree that originated in Chicago.

## Early Trial for Tillery Slayers

**SPECIAL TERM OF COURT IS CALLED FOR APRIL 20**

Three Negroes Confess to Connection With the Brutal Crime

**FUNERAL OF VICTIM TODAY**

Mob Spirit Flames When Bandits Are Brought to Elizabethtown

A special term of the Hardin Circuit Court was called last night for Monday, April 20, to try three Chicago negroes accused of the murder of Thomas Tillery, 57, a Hardin county farmer who was fatally wounded at his home on Middle Creek at 1:30 o'clock Wednesday morning.

Separate arrests of the three negroes, each of whom admits connection with the crime, and their hasty despatch to Louisville jail marked a day of intense excitement in Elizabethtown, where resentment was roused to a high pitch by the wanton killing of Mr. Tillery, a popular citizen. Mob violence was narrowly averted.

The negroes, Walter Dewberry, 22; Charles Rogers, 24, and Jack Strong, 30, alias Walter Holmes, who confess to a train of robberies from

Chicago to Elizabethtown, are awaiting grand jury action upon a charge of willful murder. Each has waived examining trial, and is held without bond.

#### All Deny Guilt at First

Each of the accused negroes protested innocence when taken into custody. Now all confess to firing shots at the Tillery home, but each contends his bullet was not fatal.

Strong, alias Holmes, held out longest. He claimed innocence from the time of his arrest in Bowling Green Wednesday until he was sweated by Chief of Detectives of Louisville in Jefferson county last night. Then Strong confessed to being a member of the bandit trio, and also revealed he had recently completed a 'four years' term at Joliet, Ill. prison for robbery.

Dewberry did not admit guilt until he was brought to the Courthouse after his arrest, and there were threats of mob action.

Rogers likewise held out until he was en route with officers from Munfordville to Elizabethtown.

#### Three Weeks' Court Term

The special term was called by Judge George Holbert, who adjourned the Grayson Circuit Court Wednesday night upon learning of the murder, and returned to Elizabethtown. Commonwealth's Attorney A.P. Cubbage, of Leitchfield, was also here yesterday conferring with County Attorney Morgan.

Judge Holbert said last night that several days, perhaps a week, would intervene between the returning of the indictment and the final trial. The grand jury will convene on the 20th inst. and only a few hours hearing is expected to be required before it returns the indictment. Jury lists, which will be made public tomorrow, are those drawn for the regular June term. Judge Holbert fixed the length of the special term as from April 20 to May 9 inclusive.

#### "Fourth Man" Theory Discarded

The hunt of officers for a "fourth man" in the killing was practically abandoned last night after Rogers admitted to Louisville detectives that the idea was his invention in order to shift some of the blame on a fictitious character.

None of the persons whose houses were robbed before the bandits reached Elizabethtown claims to have seen but three negroes.

#### How the Crime Was Committed

Three negroes, driving a Ford sedan stolen in Chicago, ran amuck in Elizabethtown at nine o'clock Wednesday night after having, in the space of four hours time, robbed the homes of J.L. Pratt, in Louisville, former Elizabethtown man; T.P. Owings and E.H. Berry on Dixie Highway in Jefferson county, and W.M. Brown near Radcliff.

Forced to abandon their car on Montgomery Avenue, they walked to the I.C. tracks, and followed the track to Mr. Tillery's residence. One of the negroes, according to Dewberry's confession to the officers, complained that his feet hurt him and proposed stealing a car.

Encountering Mr. Tillery's residence, they knocked on front and side door, and Mr. Tillery responded by going to a window on a side porch and raising it slightly. Negroes said they wished to borrow an automobile pump, and when Mr. Tillery replied that he did not know them, and would not loan the pump two of the negroes broke the window glass, entered the room and commenced firing.

#### Wife's Presence of Mind

Mrs. Tillery said that as the blacks entered the room she went under the bed, from whence she could hear bullets whizzing in every direction. After Mr. Tillery was shot in the left part of the abdomen the negroes dragged him out of the house ad yard to the railroad right-of-way, where they began to beat him over the head with their pistols. Mrs. Tillery said she saw only two negroes enter the room. As soon as she thought it safe to merge from under the bed, she said, she aroused her son-in-law, Walter Wright, sound asleep in another room in the house, and Wright frightened the negroes away by firing a shot-gun. He then assisted Mr. Tillery to his house.

Mr. Tillery's physician, Dr. J.M. English, Sheriff W.S. Long and neighbors were notified. Mr. Tillery's wounds were soon perceived to

be serious, and at two o'clock in the morning he was sent in Dyer's ambulance to Kentucky Baptist Hospital, Louisville. An operation was performed by Dr. Hart Hagan, but his life slowly ebbed away, and he died at 12:10 o'clock, eleven hours after the shooting. He was accompanied to the hospital by Mrs. Tillery and Nobel Perry, ad they were joined later in the morning by Mr. and Mrs. Wright.

#### Search Parties Organized

By early dawn on the morning of the shooting, and while Mr. Tillery was still living, Hardin and Larue county officers began to scour the country for the negro brutes. Soon neighbors began to help and by noon several hundred men, each armed, were in the fields. Louisville Police Department and officials of Nelson, Hart, and other adjoining counties were notified of the crime.

Dewberry, arrested at 7:30 o'clock in the morning a short distance from the scene of the killing, was brought to the Courthouse in Elizabethtown, where an angry crowd awaited him. There were cries of "Get a rope," but under heavy guard he was shuffled off to the Hardin county jail, where he remained in a cell until his removal to Louisville jail in mid-afternoon.

#### Excitement Increases

At noon word came of the arrest of a second negro, Charles Rogers, in Munfordville, and Sheriff Longs went for him as a phone message announced Mr. Tillery's death. Several hundred people milled the streets, awaiting the return of the officer with the prisoner, but Mr. Long skirted the town, and waited at the Rineyville road intersection a mile north on the Dixie until Judge Fife could arrive. Rogers then waived examining trial.

With the jail yard, street and alley thronged, Dewberry was lead from his jail cell under guard, hustled into a waiting automobile, and driven to the Rineyville road intersection, where he was loaded in the same car with Rogers, and taken to Louisville. Deputies Hines and Hodges and James Pate were in charge of the two prisoners.

#### Mrs. Tillery's Story of the Crime

Mrs. Tillery, widow of the slain man, Wednesday afternoon gave The News the following account of the crime in which her husband lost his life:

"About 1:30 o'clock Wednesday morning the negroes came to our home and knocked at the front door and at the side door. No one answered them, but Mr. Tillery went to a window on the side porch and raised it slightly so he could talk to them. They said they wanted to borrow an automobile pump. Mr. Tillery replied that he did not know them, and did not have any pump for loan. I thought they were not there for any good purpose and I urged Tom not to go outside. The negroes insisted that if he would let them have the pump they would pay him for it, but he said again, "I can't let your have it."

"With that the negroes broke out the window glass and two of them entered our bedroom. As they were entering the room I crawled under the bed, and I feel that is all that saved my life. One of the negroes cried out, 'Stick 'em up, stick 'em up, and the shooting began. Bullets were whizzing in every direction, and when one of them struck Tom he groaned.

"I don't know whether they dragged him out through the window or the front door, but as soon as they left and I thought it was safe I got out from under the bed, and awakened Mr. Tillery's daughter, Mrs. Walter Wright and Mr. Wright, who were in another part of the house and were still asleep. They may have driven Mr. Tillery instead of dragging him; I am not sure about that as I was still under the bed. Mr. Wright got his shot gun and went outside and fired, and them helped Mr. Tillery across the cattle-guard and back to the house. Mr. Tillery's head was beaten up terribly."

Mrs. Tillery said that only two negroes entered the room.

#### Mr. Wright's Account

Walter Wright, son-in-law of Mr. Tillery, said yesterday that he was aroused from a sound sleep by Mrs. Tillery after her husband had been shot and dragged from his room. In the confusion Mr. Wright said he did not understand who the victim of the attack was but heard him cry

for help and say, "They're killing me." Mr. Wright said he procured his shot-gun and fired, and that the negroes dispersed. He then went to Mr. Tillery's aid, he said, and assisted him to the house. Mr. Tillery, in his bare feet, had cut his feet badly on a cattle-guard near his home in trying to get back to the house.

#### Interview With Dewberry

Interviewed Wednesday afternoon at the Hardin county jail, where he was confined to a cell, Dewberry admitted being present when Mr. Tillery was murdered, but denied that he fired any shots.

"The three of us went to Mr. Tillery's house for the purpose of robbing him and taking his automobile," Dewberry said. "The other two men went in the house, and I stayed outside. When the shooting began I ran, and have not seen the others since."

Dewberry was asleep at the jail when a News' representative called.

He was arrested early Wednesday morning by Policeman Patterson and Hilton about a mile from the scene of the killing. Dewberry was lying down in a wood and had an empty pistol beside him when taken into custody.

At first Dewberry declined to talk to officers but when angry citizens gathered and began to make threats, Dewberry took advice of the officers and confessed his knowledge of the crime.

#### Arrest of Rogers

Rogers, aged 22 years, was taken from a freight train at Munfordville Wednesday noon by Sheriff A.S. Edwards of Hart county, who held the captive until Sheriff Long could arrive an hour later. Rogers was one of the two negroes whom W.T. Boyd, Glendale railroad agent, had seen boarding the south-bound freight several hours before. Mr. Boyd notified officers here.

En route to Elizabethtown Rogers confessed complicity in the crime, but like Dewberry denied being principal to the murder. He said when two of his confederates broke the window at the Tillery house, he broke and ran.

#### Rogers' Statement

Coming to Elizabethtown from Munfordville, Rogers admitted to Sheriff Long and others of the party that he was a member of the gang which called at the Tillery home. Rogers said there were four in the party, and that as soon as two of the negroes entered the Tillery home, he broke and ran towards the highway. In a few moments, according to Rogers' statement, he was joined by Dewberry, who said "I held him while the other fellow killed him."

#### Arrest of Strong

Jack Strong, third member of the party to be placed under arrest, was taken in custody Wednesday afternoon at Bowling Green, where he was held until yesterday morning. Deputy Sheriff Hodges, accompanied by Jeff Evans and Albert Miller, brought him to Elizabethtown. Unlike the other negroes, Strong would not talk except to maintain his innocence. He denied even knowing Dewberry and Rogers and said he had no connection with the killing of Mr. Tillery. However, officers found that he had sent a telegram to a friend in Chicago asking for money, and the address was the same as that given by Strong to Dewberry before they parted on a freight near Munfordville earlier in the day. Dewberry related the incident to Sheriff Long, and said Strong had told him if he needed money to telegraph the Chicago address. In addition, a blood-stained pistol was found on Strong's person. Bowling Green officers said it required quite a chase to capture him. Strong protested that his right name was Walter Holmes.

#### Mr. Tillery

Thomas Tillery, murder victim, was 57 years old, and was born and had spent his entire life in the Middle Creek section of Hardin and Larue counties. His first wife was Miss Helm Lee, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Miles Lee. A daughter born to them, Mrs. Walter Wright, survives. After Mrs. Tillery's death, Mr. Tillery was married to Miss Myrtle Straughn, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F.F. Straughn of Tonieville, who also survives him.

He was the son of the late Emerson Tillery, and his other survivors are a brother, Cofer Tillery, of Crowley, La., and three sisters, Mrs. H.A.

Alvey and Miss Lizzie Tillery, both of Elizabethtown, and Mrs. Mae Dever, Louisville.

Mr. Tillery was known as an exemplary citizen--quiet, honest, industrious and upright. He was a member of the Baptist church in Elizabethtown.

#### Mr. Tillery's Funeral

Funeral services for Mr. Tillery will be held at two o'clock this afternoon at the Baptist church in this city by the pastor, Rev. W.P. Stuart. Burial will take place in the Elizabethtown city cemetery.

#### Entry to Elizabethtown

Elizabethtown officials were notified from West Point at nine o'clock Tuesday night of the robbery of Beechwood Inn, and to be on the lookout from the negroes. Sheriff Long, Jailer Pate and Deputy Sheriff Hines stationed themselves at the L & N bridge, but when the negroes approached and saw one of the officer's guns they swerved sharply around the corner of Woodward & Brown's garage, and went out Central Avenue. Turning to the right at the end of Central Avenue they went out Montgomery Avenue, which has no outlet, and had started back when they saw officers' cars approaching. They abandoned their car, a Ford town sedan bearing Illinois license, in front of Dr. J.C. Mobley's residence, and ran across the fields toward the L & N and I.C. tracks, following the later from Elizabethtown to Mr. Tillery's residence.

#### Suspect is Freed

A negro, suspected of being the 'fourth man' in the murder party, was picked up in Elizabethtown yesterday afternoon by Policeman Patterson, but was freed after an hour's questioning by Judge Fife and Sheriff Long. He gave his name as John Hazelwood of Rowlets and convinced officers that there was no ground to hold him.

#### Robberies Along Route

The first robbery alleged to have been committed by the negroes was at the home of J.L. Pratt in Louisville at 6:30 o'clock Tuesday evening. The bandits flashed pistols on Mr. Pratt, drove him into his living room, and bound and gagged him and Mrs. Pratt and their three children. They left after obtaining \$18 and some articles of inexpensive jewelry.

The next stop was at the home of T.P. Owings, fifteen miles south of Louisville, where Mr. and Mrs. Owings were gagged and tied. \$37.50 was stolen from Owings' pocket and \$1.50 from his wife's purse. Mrs. Owings fainted when the intruders left.

The third robbery was at the home of E.H. Berry near Kosmosdale, where Mr. and Mrs. Berry and their 18-month-old son were gagged and tied. The bandits took \$35 and a small diamond ring.

#### Robbery at Brown's

At the home of W.M. Brown, two miles south of Camp Knox, the three negroes bound and gagged Mr. Brown, his wife, Mrs. Ada Brown, and his mother, Mrs. Sallie G. Brown. They took \$6 from Mr. Brown's purse, \$15 from Mrs. Brown's purse and two rings from the hand of Mrs. Sallie O. Brown. A sheet was used to bind and gag members of the Brown family.

According to a statement by Mr. Brown, he answered a knock at the front door at 9 o'clock. Opening the door he was covered by guns in the hand of the three negroes and forced to back into the house. When on the inside the bandits forced the three members of the Brown family into the dining room, where they were bound. A search of the house was then made, the negroes stating they wanted cash and jewelry.

When the negroes left the house they pulled the telephone from the wall and cut the electric light connection.

Mr. Brown released himself, then his wife and mother. He drove to the home of John Pate and called Elizabethtown officers.

Wednesday morning Mr. Brown identified Walter Dewberry, the negro arrested near the Tillery home, as the one who tied the hands of Mrs. Sallie G. Brown and pulled the telephone from the wall.

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Local Journalist were not the only press covering this event. A number of Louisville newsboys were sent here to sell 'extras' relating details of the "Elizabethtown Murder Case." Beside the newsboys both Louisville newspapers were represented by staff reporters and photographers.

# Capital Punishment Rarely Pursued In Hardin Circuit Court

There have only been six men executed under capital punishment sentencing of the Hardin Circuit Court.

The first death sentence for the crime of murder was the hanging of a black slave, Jacob (Crow,) on April 2, 1796 for the murder of his master, John Crow. This was the only execution to be carried out in Hardin County and the seventh death sentence carried out in the Commonwealth. It was a public execution and the duty of the Sheriff to oversee. As Hardin County's Sheriff, Samuel Haycraft, Sr., was reported years later of having a distaste for the hangman's office he procured the services of a black man to tie the noose and drive the cart from under the condemned.

One hundred and nineteen years later, on July 30, 1915, the Hardin Circuit Court's sentence of death by electrocution was carried out on Turner Graham, Jr. in the murder of the county's sheriff, Robert T. McMurtry. The twenty-four-year-old Graham was the state's 273rd execution.

One-half of the total number of death sentences imposed by the Hardin Circuit Court was in connection with the murder of Thomas Tillery. Walter Holmes, No. 323; Charles Rogers, No. 325 and Walter Dewberry, No. 336 were all put to death by electrocution.

Hardin County persons present at the Holmes/Rogers executions were Sheriff W.S. Long, Edmund Richerson and George W. Woodard of Elizabethtown and Robert Langley of Cecilia.

The last Hardin Circuit Court order for execution was on July 4, 1941 in the matter of the Commonwealth vs. Grover Chism regarding the murder of J. Schuyler McClure. This execution marked the 377th person to be put to death in the Commonwealth. His punishment was witnessed by Hardin County Magistrate C.B. Jeffries, E.V. McClure, Glenn Copelin and Deputy Sheriff W.W. Hodges.

As of yearend 1999, Kentucky had executed 105 prisoners since 1930, of whom two were executed since 1977.

At yearend 1998, 36 prisoners were under sentence of death.

There is currently one man on death roll for crimes committed in Hardin County. Michael Dale St. Clair received a death sentence for Capital Kidnapping in 2001. Frank Brady was shot along I-65 between Sonora and Glendale. When police arrived his truck was abandoned. His body was later discovered in Bullitt County where St. Clair was tried and convicted for murder and also given a sentence of death in Bullitt Circuit Court.

The Governor has the sole authority to commute a death sentence to one of life without the possibility of parole.

ELIZABETHTOWN, KENTUCKY, FRIDAY, JULY 4, 1941

## Chism Electrocuted Early This Morning

Never Knew McClure and Did Not Remember Shooting Him, He Says in Dying Statement.

Grover Chism was electrocuted at Eddyville penitentiary shortly after midnight for the murder of J. Schuyler McClure a Hardin county merchant, which occurred October 31, 1939, at McClure's residence near Red Mills bridge, on the South Dixie, Hardin county.

McClure, brought into the death chamber at twelve o'clock, was pronounced dead at 12:24 a. m. today. It required three "shots" to kill him. A small company witnessed the electrocution. Hardin countians present included Magistrate C. B. Jeffries, E. V. McClure, of Spurrier, cousin of the victim; Glenn Copelin and Deputy Sheriff W. W. Hodges.

Chism's statement as to the McClure murder was that he never knew McClure, and did not remember shooting him. Evidence at the trial was that he had been drinking heavily. Asked about the killing of James Wood at Upton in 1914, of which he was suspected, he said he would swear before his "God and this electric chair" that he did not kill Wood.

### Chism's "Last Mile"

Chism's dinner the night before his electrocution consisted of fried chicken, biscuits, butter, coffee, cocoanut pie and ice cream. He was then given Camel cigarettes. He had been in the death cell since December 27, 1939.

FBI record on him showed that he had been sentenced to prison ten times, and had served fifteen years. He was convicted of felonies in Kentucky, Georgia, West Virginia and Tennessee.

If any last minute effort was made to save him it was to Gov. Keen Johnson, seeking a reprieve or commutation of sentence. No habeas corpus proceeding was filed in Federal Court.

Chism, who was born and reared on a farm near Elizabethtown, and was once sent to prison from this county for robbery, killed McClure at the latter's home. He had given McClure a bad check, and apparently had gone to the store for it. McClure died November 1, the day after the shooting in a Louisville hospital.

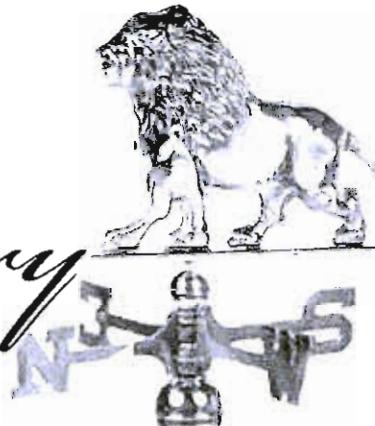
Chism was indicted, and tried in the Hardin Circuit Court December 20, 1939, a jury returning a death verdict. Seven days later he was removed to Eddyville prison, pending an appeal of his case.

The Court of Appeals affirmed the decision February 7, 1941, and several months later overruled a petition for rehearing.

Chism offered practically no defense at the trial of his case. He killed McClure with a shot-gun, after running him from the storeroom to his residence. McClure was in his front door when he was shot.

Chism is the first man electrocuted under sentence of the Hardin Circuit Court since three negroes were sent to the death chair for the murder of Thomas Tillery, which occurred in April, 1930.

# Piecing Together History



## Northwest Corner of the Square

In July 1859, two years before the Civil War began re-shaping the look of Elizabethtown's downtown, the local newspaper touted commercial ventures in the form of paid advertising. These advertisements highlighted businesses that operated along the public square.

The *Elizabethtown Democrat* with its pre-war masthead slogan, "The Right of the States, and the Integrity of the Union" written by editor, M.H. Cofer and published by T.J. Phillips offered in print the services of two very different businesses from their lot #8 location on the public square that July. The medical office of Dr. Denton Geoghegan and a saloon ran by Eli M. Hart and Judge G.W.F. Strickler were just two of the occupants of the Eagle House.

A check of the Hardin County Clerk records for the owner of the great brick structure known during that time period as the Eagle House reveals that Joseph Tarpley had purchased the property along with all its furnishings on September 1, 1856 from the estate of Thomas B. Munsford. The detailed transaction listed twenty-two beds among the inventory of household and kitchen furniture hinting at the extensive size of the lodgings that accompanied the popular tavern rooms.

ELI M. HART. JUDGE G. W. F. STRICKLER

### EAGLE HOUSES. ELIZABETHTOWN, KY.

HART & STRICKLER. Proprietors

THIS well known Establishment, Formerly kept by T. B. Munsford, Esq., is one of the best in the WESTERN COUNTRY. Its tables are provided with all the Substantial and Delicacies the Markets can afford, and Guests are entertained in a manner uncalculated to please

Meals Served up at all hours, to suit the convenience of persons Travelling.

The SALOON is supplied with the following list of choice LIQUORS:

Whisky, French Brandy, Holland Gin, Peach Brandy, Apple Brandy, Wild Cherry Brandy, Grugeon Wine, Port Wine, Cherry Wine, Maderia Wine, Catawba Wine, Old Penne-Ironia Whisky, Cherry Bonnet, and Pecke la cure. They also keep the various, and best brands of Cigars, and unsurpassed chewing Tobacco.

Photo Courtesy Kentuckiana Virtual Library

The July 14, 1859 issue of the *Elizabethtown Democrat* offered meals at all hours and choice liquors to suit the convenience of travelers in town.

### DR. DENTON GEOGHEGAN CONTINUES the Practice of Medicine in all its various branches.

Office.—The same formerly occupied by A. B. & D. Geoghegan—Eagle House building, along the State of L. Schlesinger.

Photo Courtesy Kentuckiana Virtual Library

The *Elizabethtown Democrat* Wednesday, July 6, 1859 front page declares a continuation of Dr. Denton Geoghegan's medical practice after the death of his brother/partner Dr. Ambrose Geoghegan. A third brother, Thomas, had a medical practice at West Point for several years.

The massive brick structure towered three stories, one level higher than the current edifice on the town's square. The building itself has seen many alterations and owners since its early beginning.

#### Number 7 and 8 Public Square

After the town of Elizabeth was established in 1797 by Andrew Hynes, the deed to Lot #7 and 8, located on the northwest corner of the public square, was made to Benjamin Helm by the trustees of the town on 20 August 1798.

On 4 April 1800, Helm entered into an indenture to sell his interest in the parcels of land. Helm's office that time was situated on lot #7 along with a stable and Major James Crutcher made his home and business on lot #8 in a log tavern known as at the 'Sign of the Lion.' Crutcher purchased both parcels from Helm for \$1200. He continued his operation of the tavern from that location at the crossroads of the two roads that brought business to town from Louisville and Bardstown. This was the second tavern begun in the newly organized town. The first tavern also built by Crutcher on lot #18 and then sold to Asa Coombs.

In the first half of the nineteenth century, taverns, called ordinaries, served as social centers for the county's predominantly rural population. In the early days of Elizabethtown's history, Crutcher's second tavern's large assembly room was where the town's Board of Trustees held their meetings.

A large assembly room was always a feature in early Kentucky taverns. In one corner was the bar, the kitchen adjoined, and bedrooms were usually upstairs.

Kentucky tavern laws provided that anyone wishing a tavern license must petition the County Court, and then, provided he gave bond guaranteeing good conduct, be awarded a license for one year. Tavern rates were fixed by the court and the records of

the Hardin County Clerk reveal a long line of proprietors for the tavern on lot #8 including Crutcher, Hugh Mulholland, T.B. Munsford, James Tarpley, Eli Hart and G.W. Strickler.

#### Brick Construction at Number 8 Public Square

When bricks were first being fired on the square, in 1801, Daniel Waide, who then operated the tavern, built a brick addition. A couple of proprietors later, the log house portion of the tavern razed and the tavern house became known as the Eagle House.

#### Brick Construction at Number 7 Public Square

During the same period of time, Major James Crutcher built a fine two-story brick home with marble steps leading up to his front door within steps of the town's tavern and new brick courthouse. This served as Crutcher's primary residence until he built a large brick home atop a hill along North Main Street and sold the public square house to his son-in-law, Hugh Mulholland.

Mulholland then added a three-story addition to this home. When complete the home reached to the corner of Main Cross Street. That addition was later sold to George W. Miles by Mulholland.

#### Civil War leaves its mark

When the nation found itself at war the residents of Elizabethtown soon found their homes occupied by Federal troops. Mr. George W. Miles, a Southern Rights man was quite annoyed to have a Union Company quartered in his home and sold the place to Andrew Depp.

The Federals also made use of the Eagle House. Rooms at the top of the tavern house were used as a holding pen for men under guard for infractions.

Both of these buildings were damaged by cannoning under the command of John Morgan, C.S.A. in December 1862.

#### Saddle and Harness Shop

Joseph J. Hastings also operated at one time a stand on the northwest corner of the public square. In 1859, the newspaper announced that John Hastings was operating a saddle and harness business from this location.

Henry Morrison of White Mills, a great-great-grandson of the honorable Joseph J. Hastings recently shared a unique story regarding his elder. A portion of that story as follows is preserved in the county clerk records.



Photo Courtesy Mary Jo Richerson Jones

This three-story addition was added to Hugh Mulholland's home at lot #7 public square. The addition was later sold to Mr. George M. Miles who lived in the home only a short period of time. The building takes its name from the third owner, Mr. Andrew Depp.

This indenture made this 20th day of January 1845 witnesseth that Samuel Haycraft clerk of our Hardin County court by and with the consent of Isaiah Miller, Clabourn Howell and Samuel Wothen, Gentlemen Justices of the Peace in and for the county aforesaid now sitting and whose names are here to subscribed hath put and placed and by these presents doth put and place Lewis Helm a poor child of colour of the county aforesaid to Joseph J. Hastings and with him to dwell and serve from the day of the date of these presents until the said apprentice shall accomplish his full age of 21 years according the laws in that case made and provided during all which term the said apprentice his said master faithfully shall serve in lawful business according to his wit and ability honestly, orderly and obediently in all things and behave himself to his master during the said term and the said Joseph J. Hastings doth for himself, his heirs and assigns covenant and agree to and with the said Samuel Haycraft and his successors in office by these presents, that the said Joseph J. Hastings will teach the said apprentice the art and mystery of saddling in its various branches which he now useth and shall and will teach and instruct or cause to be taught and instructed in the best way and manner he can and shall and will during all the term aforesaid find, provide and allow unto the said apprentice sufficient meat, drink and apparel, lodging,

**SADDLES  
AND  
HARNESS,  
JNO. R. HASTINGS,**

RESPECTFULLY invites the public to call  
and examine his extensive and superior  
Stock of Saddles, Harnesses &c., at the old stand  
of Jno. J. Hastings, Northwest corner of the public  
square. He solicits a liberal share of public  
patronage, and hopes by his experience and  
prompt attention to business to give entire satis-  
faction to all who favor him with their cus-  
tom.

June 26-1y.

Photo Courtesy Kentuckiana Virtual Library  
A 1859 Elizabethtown Democrat advertisement for saddlery services from the northwest corner of the public square. John Hastings' father, Joseph Hastings, was a prominent figure in the Presbyterian Church and years earlier taken on the care and education of a young, orphaned, black boy as the town's highly respected saddle and harness maker.

washing and other things necessary and fit for an apprentice and shall and will teach and instruct or case to be taught and instructed the said apprentice reading so as to read the new testament and shall and will provide for the said apprentice so that he be not a charge to the county during said term and at the end thereof shall and will pay unto the said apprentice thirty dollars current money and also provide, make and deliver unto the said apprentice double apparel of all sorts, one suit where of to be decent and new.

In testimony whereof the parties to this indenture have hereunto set their hand and affixed there seals the day and year first written.

Samuel Haycraft

Joseph J. Hastings

We whose names are hereunto subscribed do consent to putting forth the above named apprentice to the above named Joseph J. Hastings according to the true intent and meaning of the aforesaid indenture the said boy being 11 years old on the 10th January 1845.

At a county court began and held for Hardin County at the court house in Elizabethtown on Monday the 20th day of January 1845 this foregoing indenture of apprenticeship was produced in court and being examined and approved by the court and ordered to be recorded.

Whereupon I have truly recorded the same in my office this 22nd day of January.

Samuel Haycraft clerk

By W. Conway Jr. DCHCC

Morrison closes this interesting tale with the death of Lewis on May 19, 1854 at the young age of twenty and just before he reached the age of majority as outlined in the court records.

When paying a recent visit to the Elizabethtown City Cemetery to locate Helm's grave, John Lay was surprised to discover the plot in the lower portion of the burying grounds and not in the black section. Inspection of the City's records indicate that the young man's parents were Vincent and Mary Helm and a W.M. Helm is listed as owner of the lot where the remains are interred. The rest of the story regarding the short life of Lewis W. Helm is but a mystery.



One of a few written records of the short life of Lewis Helm is that etched on his tombstone.

Another is his inclusion on the 1850 Hardin County, KY census where he is recorded at a mulatto.

Photo Courtesy  
John R. Lay

#### More Destruction Post War

While the Eagle House located on lot 8 recovered from the cannon damage to its roof and upper level and has survived the many alterations over the years, sadly the same cannot be said for the neighboring structures on lot 7.

In June of 1887, a fire spread from Elliott's drug store located on the alley where, today, the Chamber of Commerce is located and consumed all of lot 7 and parts of lot 8. The flames left George Cresap's clothing store, located in the old Eagle House, standing in the wake of the destruction on the northwest corner of the public square.

#### The history behind Cresap's Store

When Joseph Tarpley decided to leave the business of tavern and hotel and move to Tennessee he deeded his real estate holdings to George Cresap and Bernard Staadeker on 1 September 1875. No mention is made to the furnishings of the Eagle House in the transfer of property.

Cresap later bought out Staadeker's interest in the property operating a successful clothing and dress goods business from the public square entrance for many years before retiring from active business in 1897, ten years after the great fire that spared the handsome building that housed the mercantile. The business and location passed on to his son and daughter.

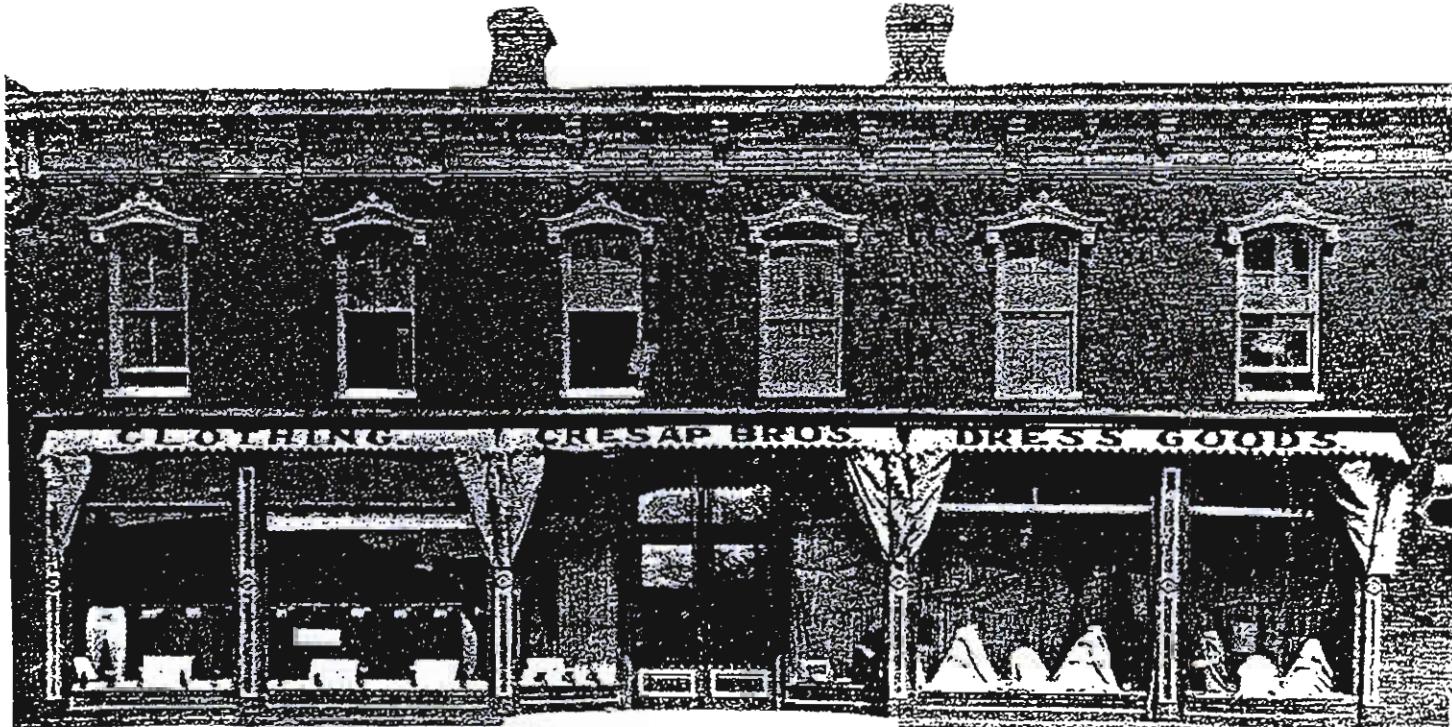


Photo Courtesy John R. Lay

# Book Review...

**My Old Confederate Home:  
A Respectable Place for Civil War Veterans**  
by Rusty Williams  
University Press of Kentucky, 2010

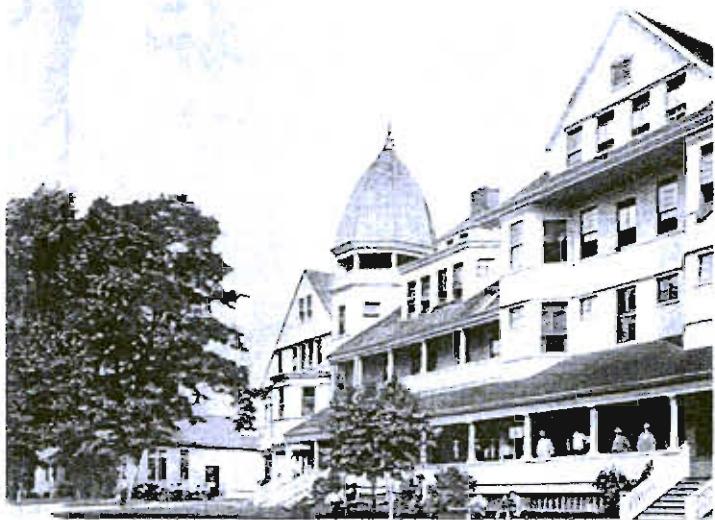
While the Civil War may have ended in 1865, many of its survivors still had long lives ahead of them. In time some aged veterans became financially despondent or suffered from old wounds and sickness. As veterans of a defeated army, there was little help for ex-Confederates. *My Old Confederate Home*, by Rusty Williams, is an engaging story that details the efforts to establish and maintain a home for disadvantaged Confederate Veterans living in Kentucky during the early twentieth century. This story becomes more engaging through Williams' character sketches of veterans and participants during the Home's existence. (One participant briefly discussed was Hardin County's Fayette Hewitt, who served on the board of trustees for the Home!)

Williams provides an excellent summarization about Confederate veterans' organizations in Kentucky after the war. He also addresses Kentucky's "Lost Cause" sentiment of the post war south, but briefly gets caught up with this rhetoric in his narrative. This is to an extent that some readers might falsely conclude that the state furnished more soldiers to the Confederacy than to the Union. Part of the tragic history of the War Between the States is how Kentucky suffered as a state divided. Not every Kentuckian viewed Federal soldiers, sometimes hailing from the same neighborhood, as "Federal occupiers." (Page 29) Many federal troops, including hard-fighting Kentuckians, shared the same suffering and "scars of vicious combat." This isn't acknowledged much in the book, other than to point out that federal soldiers had opportunities for help much sooner than their defeated counterparts. However, this is obviously not a book about the Union veterans of Kentucky.

# MY OLD CONFEDERATE HOME

A RESPECTABLE PLACE  
for CIVIL WAR VETERANS

Rusty Williams



This book is really about Confederate veterans in Kentucky taking care of each other. Hundreds needed and deserved assistance and they found it at the Kentucky Confederate Home at Pee Wee Valley. This was not just an institutional home, but a true residence for many. Also contributing to the homes success was the persistent help of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, who made the welfare of the residents their mission. Annual state funding and other financial benefactors kept it open for over thirty years. We even learn how some Union veterans assisted with fundraising or provided other benevolent services for the Confederate Home.

My Old Kentucky Home is an interesting post script to the War Between the States and deserves a place on the shelf with other books about the war and Kentucky's rich history.

-Matthew Rector

# Saturday Night DOWNTOWN at the GROCERY

By RUTH LINDSEY  
Hardin County Historical Society

One of the earliest memories of my childhood is the little grocery store, owned and operated by Ernest Weisemiller, who was my Uncle, and Oliver Walker, his partner. As a tribute to Elizabethtown, its citizens of days gone by, I write a few memories and facts about the store located at 136 E. Dixie Avenue in Elizabethtown which was operated from about 1905 until 1962.

September 1899, Mrs. S. I. McMurry purchased 3 lots on Main Cross Street from Mr. Henry Young and Cynthia his wife, Deed book 45 Page 591. This deed states that Mr. J. B. Walker is to have an option of holding the store (in the middle room) at the rate of \$15.00 per month for the purpose of a grocery store or dry goods or general merchandise. It states that Mr. J. B. Walker owns the shelving and counters etc. in the store room occupied by him - also the light fixtures.

The size of the building (store room) was 21 feet 7 inches front and 220 feet from front to back - from Main Cross Street to Strawberry Alley. This is certainly not much space as we think of stores today but they had lots of inventory in that little space.

John Weisemiller became a young clerk in the store. In the obituary printed in the E'town Newspaper of December 1928 it stated "He was a member of the firm of Walker and Miller, having risen by his own efforts to an interest in the business after long service for his partner, J. B. Walker". John Weisemiller died at a Louisville Hospital December 29, 1928, Death Certificate 31077, Register # 5195.

An advertisement for Walker & Miller Grocery was found in the May 28, 1914 issue of an old Elizabethtown Newspaper, *The Mirror*.

John Weisemiller's will left all of his possessions to his wife Betty Weisemiller. She sold the interest in the grocery store to his brother Ernest Weisemiller in 1929.

In my memory the partners of the store were Ernest Weisemiller and Oliver Walker, who was a nephew to Mr. & Mrs. J. B. Walker, who had raised him from childhood in Elizabethtown. Mr. Oliver Walker died July 6, 1959 at Hardin Memorial Hospital and was buried in the Elizabethtown City Cemetery. Mr. J. B. Walker died in March 1937 and is buried in the Elizabethtown City Cemetery.

In Hardin County Deed Book 593 page 311 affidavit 55819 "Citizens Fidelity Bank and Trust Co of Hardin County, Trustees of the Testamentary Trust of J. B. Walker, deceased, in Case No. 86-P-546 of Hardin District Court Probate Division of Elizabethtown, Hardin Co., Ky, and for the purpose of satisfying the requirements of KRS Chapter 382, et. seg. after being duly sworn, deposes and states as follows, the settlement of the trust of J. B. Walker, property consisting of business houses located at 134-136-138 E. Dixie Avenue, Elizabethtown, Ky. Owned by Mr. J. B. Walker from May 2, 1902 and February 21, 1905 -



ABOVE: McMurry's Store ca. 1900.  
Later operated as Walker and Miller.  
RIGHT: Mr. Ernest Weisemiller.

Photos Courtesy Ruth Lindsey



Deed book 54 page 568 - Hardin County Court Clerk's Office." These lots were purchased by the City of Elizabethtown, in 1997 for the purpose of building the Hardin County Justice Center.

Walker and Miller Grocery was a busy store - only 21 ft. 7 ins. wide, depth 220 ft, and included 2 store rooms. The front was the grocery, front door in the middle, to the left a counter including the cash register and the refrigerated meat counter. To the right a little space for standing room and socializing while your order was filled. Also, to the right was a window display of fresh fruits and vegetables, and always a stalk of bananas. More room included more display of fresh fruits and vegetables, and the shelves and counters to hold supplies such as matches, shoe strings and any other items you needed in the home. Shelves behind the left side counters, held more supplies, canned goods and dried items like flour, sugar, and dried beans. Sugar, flour, meal and dried beans were bought in large bags such as 25 lbs. or even 100 lbs. My family purchased flour, sugar and dried beans by the 100 lbs. Somewhere along the counter on the left there was a meat slicer and a scale for weighing items sold by the pound.

You gave your order to a clerk and they gathered up your list, wrote a hand written receipt, added your purchases by hand and then you paid at the cash register. Then you carried your groceries or supplies to your car or wagon. Kerosene could be purchased at the store also. If you lived in town you could call in your order and have it delivered to your house. The delivery truck was once driven by Percy Hawkins, whose descendants are still in the area. Clerks I remember were Claudlee Swango and Agnes Perry, both wonderful hard working women.

In the back left corner of the front store room was the office consisting of a little desk space and a chair. Books were kept on charge accounts and bills were paid etc. In this corner was also a little space for handling eggs purchased from the farmers who brought them in. My Mother brought in eggs and bought her groceries, sometimes owing more and other times, collecting money after her purchases. When the eggs were checked they were placed in cartons. If you purchased eggs and kept your

carton clean you could return it for a refund.

On the right of the back of the front room was a big pot bellied stove which heated the entire store. There was also room for persons to stand around and talk or visit one another.

Many persons would come into the store for lunch. Bologna could be sliced and crackers were kept in a barrel loose. So cheese or bologna and crackers were put into a brown paper bag, maybe a candy bar and a coke, always a soft drink in a bottle. Lunch and entertainment in the short time off from work.

The back room was a store room complete with all sort of stock. A back door led to a small parking area where a few cars could be parked. There was a 2 car parking garage for the cars of Mr. Walker and Mr. Weisemiller.

Meat purchased in the store had to be gotten elsewhere, maybe from Bob's Market a butcher shop up the street or maybe from Thomas Produce. Bologna, wieners, sandwich meat, cheese and such were kept in the refrigerated counter. In season Oysters in a cedar bucket, could be dipped out and put into a container for you.

Today, as I remember, we could get most everything we needed there in that tiny little store, and at the same time visit with friends and neighbors while all our orders were filled. The visit to the store was usually a Saturday occasion for most farmers in rural Hardin County. E'town was the center of our rural community in those years from the early 1900's until 1962. More and more people began shopping at the big chain groceries, more room, pretty displays and more convenient shopping.

I remember visiting the Weisemiller family and going down town on Saturday night. The streets were full of people with cars parked on both sides of East Dixie Avenue; everybody just visiting each other and having fun. The store remained open until 10:00 P.M. on Saturday Night. What a day Saturday was. My grandfather, Mr. J. A. Percefull, lived to be 92 years old, and spent many Saturdays just sitting on the steps of Walker and Miller Grocery just watching the cars go by and talking to people who were friendly on the street.

Ernest Weisemiller retired late in 1962 and closed the store forever. He died at Sunrise Manor Nursing Home March, 1985, and is buried at Hardin Memorial Park on North Miles Street in Elizabethtown.

Ernest Weisemiller was married to Bertha Percefull on June 16, 1921. They had 3 sons: Ernest, Harold and Randall. As a teenager, Randall worked in the store and many old timers remember his quickness with addition as he added up those orders. Ernest went into the Air Force. He was a pilot in WWII. He spent his life in the Air Force, active duty and as an Air Force Exchange Manager in Illinois, Texas and Louisiana. He retired in Louisiana to live near his daughter and her family. Harold, known by many as Pop, worked at E'Town Distributing Co. Harold was known and loved by many Hardin County residents. He died August 6, 2007 and is buried at Hardin Memorial Park. Randall died September 12, 1995 but his descendants still live in the area.

The memory of Walker & Miller Grocery brings a smile to my face as I reminisce about yesteryear. I will be forever thankful for the contribution the little store made to the history of Elizabethtown.



## Message From The President

**"For my part, I consider that it will be found much better by all parties to leave the past to history, especially as I propose to write that history myself."**

- Winston Churchill

I lift a glass of Bourbon this month to toast the beginning of Fall and the greatly anticipated departure of the 100 degree plus temperatures that took up residency in the local area for a number of weeks this past summer.

And on the topic of Bourbon...please join me in welcoming our speaker this month! Colonel Michael Masters, better known as "*The Host of Kentucky*", will be regaling us on "*The Pioneer Dueling Town's Old Rebels and Whiskey Legacy*".

Col. Masters is the owner of the historic Dr. Henri Chapeze home in Bardstown, a Federalist mansion built in 1787 and considered "*Kentucky's Home for Bourbon*". Old Charter Bourbon brand is still distilled there today, and the home offers Bourbon tastings as well as full home-cooked southern meals. Col. Masters will be sharing a little of the history of the home, Dr. Chapeze's contribution to the medical history of Bardstown, and the utilization of Old Charter for "medicinal" purposes. The Colonel might even find a trace or two of this great story to our own Hardin County history.

In addition, we will have news of an exciting new grant proposal which would finally, officially mark The Battle of Elizabethtown as a battle fought in Kentucky during the Civil War so it can be given its due regards, and subsequently, the data gathered during this project will allow us to apply to the Civil War Preservation Trust for recognition as a historic battleground site.

Come and bring a friend to share an evening of food and fun with the man who made and served a Mint Julep to Paula Deen on Food Network TV!

-Jeff Lanz

# Historical Society announces next meeting



**Colonel Michael Masters**  
"The Host of Kentucky"

The Hardin County Historical Society will meet Monday evening, October 25, 2010, 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 Judy French at 735-9698 or email [jmfrench9@windstream.net](mailto:jmfrench9@windstream.net) by **Friday, Oct., 22nd, for dinner reservations**; later reservations for the meal cannot be guaranteed.

The dinner is followed by a program presented by Col. Michael Masters, "The Host of Kentucky," and owner of the historic Dr. Henri Chapeze home located at 107 East Stephen Foster Avenue in Bardstown, on, *The Pioneer Dueling Town's Old Rebels and Whiskey Legacy*.

Join us as Col. Masters shares with us the early history of his early Federalist mansion, built by Dr. Henri Chapez, one of fourteen French army officers who came to America with Marquise de Lafayette to join the American Continental Army. Learn about the good doctor's part in the medical history of Bardstown and the **Old Charter** legacy of his heirs that has been known to be used for "medicinal" purposes in today's mainstream.

The Colonel has hinted about a surprise or two about our Elizabethtown history delivered from the advantage point of a hospitable neighbor.

Come and enjoy a look into the early days of Bardstown's past.