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Bits and Pieces

of Hardin County History

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GEORGE HELM YEAMAN
Lawyer, Congressman, Minister to Denmark
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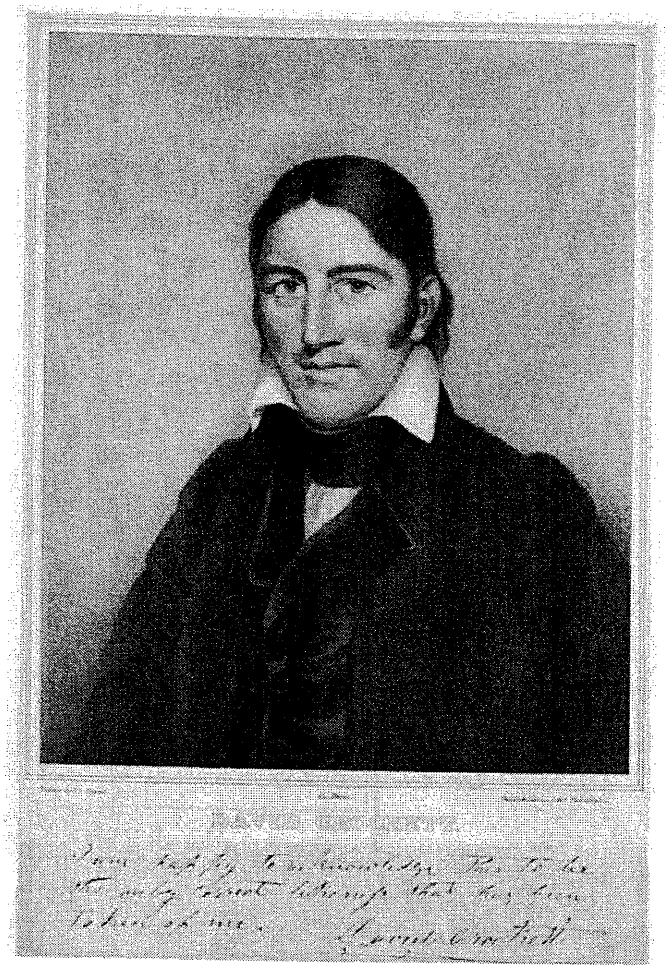


"I am happy to acknowledge this to be the only correct likeness that has been taken of me."
DAVID CROCKETT
See Page 40

DUES FOR 2006 IN THE AMOUNT OF $10.00 PER PERSON ARE NOW PAYABLE. PLEASE SEND YOUR CHECK TO THE SOCIETY AT POST OFFICE BOX 381, ELIZABETHTOWN, KY, 42702. POSTAGE IS EXPENSIVE. PLEASE PAY NOW AND SPARE THE TREASURER THE NECESSITY OF MAILING YOU A BILL LATER.

ELIZABETHTOWN'S WATERWORKS

The Standpipe

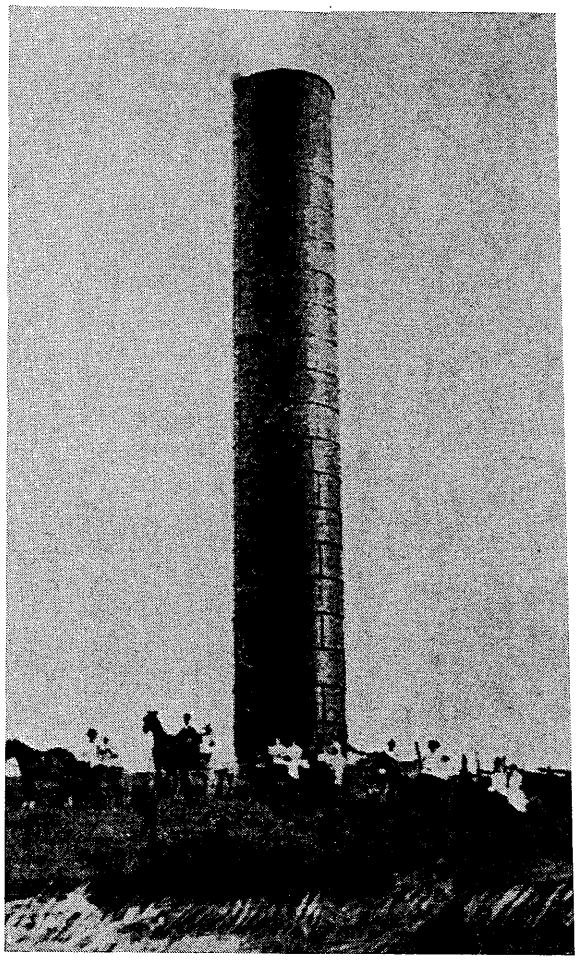
In 1891Kentucky adopted a new constitution which provided for the classification of cities. Elizabethtown was classified at that time as a fifth class city, and the government was changed from a Board of Trustees to a Mayor and Council form. R. L. Wintersmith, Jr., was the first mayor.

Over the years, there had been many devastating fires in the town, one of which, in 1869, practically wiped out the downtown area. So one of the first things which the new mayor and his council had to face was the agitation for a city waterworks.

The greatest hurdle was finding a dependable source of water. A spring flowing several million gallons a day was located just west of town. It was the same spring that Andrew Hynes had found more than one hundred years before, but up to that time its capacity had been underestimated. It proved to be a dependable source of water.

Next, money had to be found. Estimates were secured, and with the cash already on hand, it was necessary to vote a bonded debt of only $13,500 to put in the entire system. When the election was held only 18 votes were cast against the proposal.

Installation was completed in 1896. Initially, water was supplied by direct pressure–there was no storage tank. In a test made, a large stream of water was thrown over the cupola of the courthouse. In 1899 a standpipe was completed. It was 100 feet high and stood on an elevation 80 feet above the business part of the town, giving a pressure of 78 pounds. Its capacity was 150,000 gallons of water, sufficient to supply the town at that time for more than 24 hours.



SCENE AT STANDPIPE, JUNE 15, 1900
ELIZABETHTOWN, KY.

When the waterworks was installed and working, a volunteer fire department was organized, and the decrease in the cost of fire insurance was more than sufficient to pay off the bonded debt.

M. J. J.

BERSHEBA LINCOLN

Among the pioneer women who came to Kentucky from Virginia was one destined to become the grandmother of one of the greatest men Kentucky ever produced. That woman was Bersheba Lincoln, the grandmother of President Abraham Lincoln. From her he inherited many things that contributed to his greatness. She was noted for her native shrewdness, her keen intellect, her boundless courage, and her dogged perseverance.

Very little is known of her early life. She was born in Virginia in 1745. It is unfortunate that the notice of Grandfather Abraham Lincoln's marriage in 1770, recorded in the Augusta County, Virginia, records does not reveal the name of his bride. Some authorities accept her maiden name as *HERRING*, a daughter of Leonard Herring of Rockingham County, Virginia. She apparently attended a colonial school as a child, as she was able to write a fair hand. The marriage permit of her daughter, Nancy Ann, in 1801 filed in Washington County, Kentucky, bears her signature. Her five children–Mordecai, Josiah, Thomas, Mary, and Nancy Ann–were all born in Virginia.

In 1780 Capt. Abraham Lincoln, who had served under Gov. Patrick Henry on the southern trail during the Revolutionary War, took advantage of the Treasury Land Script for land in the County of Kentucky offered by Virginia in payment for services in that war.

He migrated, with his family, to Central Kentucky. Here he acquired more than 5,000 acres of picked land in widely scattered parts of that section. The home of the family was located at Hughes' Station, on Long Run, in Jefferson County. Here in 1786, during crop-planting time, Capt. Lincoln was killed in a surprise attack by Indians. He died without a will and as the old English law was still in effect in America, the eldest son, Mordecai, by the law of primogeniture, inherited all the land of the family. Thus, the mother with four children dependent upon her was left in a wild, unsettled country with the meager belongings of the average pioneer family. In a short time she moved with her brood to Washington County, Kentucky. Little is known of her life there except that she kept the family together until most of them were married.

The first to marry was Mordecai, the eldest son. He married Mary Mudd in 1798. The next to marry was Nancy Ann, the youngest child. She married William Brumfield in 1801. Josiah married Caty Barlow in the saame year and month as Nancy. In August of the same year, Mary married Ralph Crume.

About this time Bersheba began to center her interest on the family of Nancy and William Brumfield, with whom she made her home. Mary's husband was many years her senior and had been married previously. He had been a soldier in the Revolution and like her father had taken advantage of the Treasury Land Script offered by Virginia and had taken up land in Central Kentucky. He had a comfortable home on a large farm in Breckinridge County to which he took his bride.

Both Mordecai and Josiah had farms in Washington County. The former had inherited his from his father; the latter had purchased his and was rapidly paying the debt on it. In 1803 Thomas Lincoln bought 238 acres of land on Mill Creek in northern Hardin County. Shortly afterwards, the Brumfields and Bersheba Lincoln moved to it.

In 1806, the Brumfields acquired a farm five miles north on Buffalo Run of Mill Creek. Here they built a large two-story log house with a large kitchen in the rear. Tradition holds that Bersheba was the brains of the clan. She was endowed with a shrewd mind which made it possible for her to plan for the future. William Brumfield was rather indolent, but Bersheba pushed him along until they were one of the wealthiest families in the neighborhood. They owned a store, a blacksmith shop, and a stillhouse. Somehow she schemed and contracted for the three-day elections to be held at their place.

"Granny" Lincoln, as she was called by the whole community after the coming of the Brumfield children, lived to a very ripe old age. She died in 1833 and was buried in the cemetery of the old pioneer Baptist Church of Mill Creek. At first her grave was marked with a large flat limestone rock turned on end with the letters "B L" carved near the top. This stone became worn until it stood less than a foot high. However, now her grave is marked with a handsome marker given by the people of Illinois to the people of Kentucky in 1960.

M. J. J.

(Source: *Bits and Pieces,* Vol. X, No. 3, Fall, 1989; *The Lincoln Kinsman,* No. 3, September, 1938.)

David Crockett Visits Elizabethtown

THOMAS CHILTON – DAVID CROCKETT

Members of Congress

Among Westerners of the early nineteenth century, few have achieved the fame of David Crockett of Tennessee. Crockett's story is a familiar one–the backwoodsman who went to Congress an ardent supporter of Andrew Jackson, who broke with the Jackson machine and cooperated with Whig politicians, and who went to Texas and to the Alamo after his defeat in a bid for reelection. But there was a counterpart to Crockett, from the state of Kentucky, whose political career roughly paralleled that of the Tennessee hero. He was Thomas Chilton, a man deserving of much of the distinction which has attached to Crockett's name, for he is said to have written Crockett's famous autobiography.

An Elizabethtown newspaper of mid-November, 1834, proclaimed:

> *The Hon. David Crockett arrived in this place on Saturday last, and much anxiety was evinced by many of our good citizens to behold this western wonder. Many conjectures were afloat relative to his personal appearance: some supposed that he would not appear as very man, but in all probability would assume the form of some comical or hideous monster. It is needless to say that such were disappointed in their expectations. He seemed to us to resemble very much the appearance of other great men–shrewd, intelligent, and graceful; with a commanding, lofty aspect, and a dignified, manly countenance. On Wednesday last he was invited to attend a public dinner, given by the citizens of this place at the hotel of H. G. Wintersmith, Esq.; where many people from the country were in attendance. After the cloth was removed, the company being called to order, Major James Crutcher was appointed president, and Dr. Harvey Slaughter vice-president. The whole proceedings were conducted with the utmost order and regularity, and went off in the most pleasing and friendly matter.*

Crockett, in his autobiography, relates that he was en route to Washington and, having earlier promised he would do so, stopped in Elizabethtown for a visit with Chilton, the member of Congress from this district. Crockett, following his break with Jackson, became allied with the Anti-Jacksonian, or National Republican, party, which nominated Henry Clay for the presidency in 1832. (The National Republicans by 1836 had combined with other groups to form the Whig party.)

A local committee, consisting of H. Mulholland, W. Conway, B. R. Young, George P. Brown, and William Conway, organized a large public dinner in Crockett's honor, with attendance from Hardin and neighboring counties. It was held at H. G. Wintersmith's hotel on November 19th. Toasts were offered to the Federal Constitution, the Union of States, Nullification, Proscription, and to the Guest of Honor, Mr. Crockett.

Crockett addressed the group, in which he likened Andrew Jackson to King George III of 1776, calling him King Andrew the First and speaking out against his monetary policies, the extravagant spending by the Jackson administration, and the failure to re-charter the national bank.

Following Crockett's address, there were toasts to Martin Van Buren, Henry Clay, and Thomas Chilton. Chilton then rose and addressed the group, closing by offering toasts to "the fair sex" and to Wintersmith "for his munificent and sumptuous fare." As the newspaper article suggests, apparently the dinner concluded with the organization of political committees.

The effort must have been successful; in the 1836 presidential election, Hardin County gave 57.3 percent of its vote to the Whig candidate.

M. J. J.

(Source: *An Account of Col. Crockett's tour to the North and Down East Written by Himself,* Philadelphia, 1835; "Thomas Chilton: Lawyer, Politician, Preacher," *The Filson Club Quarterly,* Vol. 38, No. 2; *Presidential Politics in Kentucky,* by Shannon & McQuown; various sources on the internet.)

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Mary Jo and World War II

MY FIRST JOB

Occasionally people enjoy reading about the World War II experiences of others. I hope some of you will find mine interesting.

It was the summer of 1940. I had just graduated from high school and was looking for a summer job. I expected to enroll at Western Kentucky Teachers College in Bowling Green in September. Elizabethtown was still trying to pull out of the Great Depression of the 1930's, and money was very scarce. I hoped to earn a little during the few weeks before school.

About the first of July we began to hear rumors of a big build-up at Fort Knox and the possibility of jobs! Surely enough, on July 10 the Armored Force was born, and Fort Knox was to be the headquarters. Colonel J. J. B. Williams, a friend of my father, became post commander under the new set-up. He and my father were friends, so Daddy was in a position to ask him about a job for his wife and/or his daughter. Colonel Williams told him he'd take care of one of us. The jobs were for stenographers and typists; both of us were qualified. The jobs would be temporary, thirty to ninety days at most. That night, we had a family conference. Would Mother take the job, and I go on to school? Or would I go to work and delay my college education by one semester? The jobs would be over by Christmas, and we could use the money. We finally decided I'd go to work. After all, I was only sixteen.

My age was a potential roadblock, so I "aged" myself one year and swore my birth date was 1922. That made me "almost eighteen." I had an interview with Colonel Madison Pearson, the Adjutant General for the Armored Force, and he asked me if I could type and take dictation and told me to report for work the following morning. There had been no discussion of salary, working hours, benefits, or any other details.

Needless to say, I reported at eight o'clock the following morning, July 25, 1940. I found that my hours would be eight to four, five days a week, and half a day on Saturday. I was assigned to the G-3 Section of Armored force Headquarters, where Sgt. Langan E. Shea taught me the forms of military correspondence and helped me in countless other ways. The G-3 was Col. Charlie Unger, and his assistants were Major Hugh J. Gaffey and Major Adna Chaffee Hamilton, who was also aide-de-camp to Adna R. Chaffee, his uncle, the Commanding general of the Armored Force. Master Sgt. Bill Walsh was chief clerk of the section, and Lillian Stuart was Col. Unger's secretary. I worked for everybody else.

I had learned that I would accrue vacation time at the rate of 2½ days per month, but I still did not know my salary. Nobody did. I remember discussing the subject with another girl who had just been hired, and she said she'd heard $60 or $75 a month, maybe as much as $90–any one of which sounded like a fortune to me. When I received my first pay check for $24 for six days in July, only then did I discover my salary was $120 per month.

That was unbelievable. That was the base salary for teachers in the high school from which I had just graduated, and they were college graduates. But my job was only temporary–I'd get to college in January, study for two years, and then teach a one-room school for $60 a month and spend the next umpteen summers in school until I finally got a degree and could teach in high school.

I tried hard but made lots of mistakes. I sometimes spoiled so many sheets of paper that I took them home with me, rather than putting them in the wastebasket. I didn't want anybody to know how much paper I wasted! Sgts. Walsh and Shea were very patient with me, and I soon caught on. Military correspondence was very different from that I had learned in my high-school typing class.

The girls at the headquarters got along well together, and several of us would go to lunch at the same place. We always walked, as none of us had a car. A favorite lunch spot was the "Pool Hall" on Dixie Street next to the Post Office, where a "hot

ham" sandwich was ten cents and a Coke was a nickel. On special occasions we went to the Post Restaurant operated by Lee Dot, a Chinaman. There two of us would split an order of either chop suey or chow mein, which cost each of us forty cents, a real "splurge."

I continued to live at home and was able to ride to and from Fort Knox with Daddy. I paid board, of course, a minimal amount, and saved my money. By November, I had enough to buy my first status symbol–a fur coat. Two years later I bought the nineteen-diamond Kentucky cluster ring which I still wear on my right hand. I also invested in some antique furniture and glassware which I still have.

Winter came, then spring, then the next summer. My "temporary job had lasted a year. But things would get back to normal soon, and I'd get back to school.

The war in Europe was raging on, the build-up of armored forces at Fort Knox and other Army posts continued. December 7, 1941–then I learned that my "temporary" job was "for the duration." As Fort Knox grew, my father's working hours, as well as mine, became longer and more uncertain. It was getting inconvenient to depend upon him for transportation; we'd always been a one-car family. I never even considered buying a car. The few that were available were too expensive. Besides, gasoline and tires were rationed.

More and more young women were being hired at Fort Knox, and suitable living quarters were being provided for them at a rental of $3.00 per month. Besides, more and more young men in Elizabethtown were leaving for the services, and my social life was suffering. I moved to Fort Knox.

Most Army officers, particularly those with several children, had settled their families for the duration, and there was no demand for a large set of quarters with six bedrooms. Therefore, it was made available to single girls. I moved in with eleven other girls. In addition to six bedrooms, we had a living room, dining room, kitchen, and large screened-in porches both upstairs and downstairs. We were within walking distance of the officers club and only a block from my office. Problem: We had one telephone and only two and a half baths. The house was Building t-42 in Block 7-B on Dixie Street; it was the second house from the traffic circle toward the chapel.

We had a maid, Ruth Browning, whom we paid $60 a month–$5 each, in addition to the $3 monthly rent. She occupied the room with bath over our garage. Our arrangement for meals was ideal: Each week two girls would be responsible for buying the grocers and preparing the five evening meals. They also bought food for breakfasts and lunches, but each girl fixed her meal. Week-ends we were on our own. The other ten girls, two each night, were responsible for doing the dishes and cleaning the kitchen.

My social life picked up considerably. We all had friends, and quite often somebody's date would have a friend who also needed a date. We were always neatly dressed. As soon as I could afford, I had five two-piece wool suits (skirt and jacket), one for each day of the week for work, and several dressy outfits for evenings. Saturday night dances at the Officers Club always required formal dress, as did occasional week-night parties.

No discussion of war-time Fort Knox would be complete without a discussion of the social life. Of course, the Officers' Club was always an option. We lived within walking distance of the "brick" club, where formal dances were held each Saturday night, and week-night dining and dancing was always available. The Officers' Country Club, with dining and dancing in a less formal atmosphere, and a swimming pool and golf course, was only a few blocks. Also an option was the Hunt Club, a branch of the Officers' Club, located about two miles south on Dixie Highway. It had been a pre-war night spot with dining, dancing, liquor and casino-style gambling. (Both liquor-by-the-drink and gambling were strictly illegal in Hardin County at that time. However, the rewards greatly out-weighed the risks of an occasional raid by the Sheriff and the ensuing small fine.) It proved too convenient to Fort Knox and was bought by the Government in the post expansion of 1942. It was ideal for a night spot, and the Officers' Club quickly took it over.

M. J. J.

(CAN BE CONTINUED UPON REQUEST)

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HARDIN COUNTY ELECTION DISPUTE

The current dispute over a seat in the Kentucky State Senate between Virginia Woodward and Dana Stephenson is not unlike a dispute which took place about two hundred years ago in Hardin County. An account of the Hardin County event is contained in a small book, *Biography of Henry Clay* by George D. Prentice, which was published in 1831, as follows:

. . .A measure which Mr. C.[lay] carried through the house of representatives, in 1809, is deserving of particular notice, on account of the important principle involved in it. At the August election, the citizens of Hardin county, who were entitled to two representatives in the general assembly, had given 436 votes for Charles Helm, 350 for Samuel Haycraft, and 271 for John Thomas. Mr. Haycraft, at the time of the election, was an assistant judge of the circuit court of Hardin, and he did not resign the office till some weeks afterward. The 26th section of the second article of the Kentucky constitution provides, that those who hold or exercise any office of profit under the commonwealth, shall be ineligible to a seat in the general assembly. Under these circumstances, Mr. Clay moved to inquire, whether Mr. Haycraft was entitled to a seat, and, if not, whether Mr. Thomas was entitled to it. The case was not unlike that of Mr. Wilkes, which excited much discussion in England in the days of Junius. The latter case is perhaps familiar to the public. Mr. Wilkes, a member of the house of commons, having become obnoxious to the ministerial party, was expelled from the house for causes which were considered as constituting a disqualification for a seat. In spite of this decision of the house, the citizens of Westminster determined to re-elect him. The ministry, on learning this determination, secretly procured a candidate to be put up in opposition to him. A few votes were given for the opposition candidate, but Mr. Wilkes was re-elected by a great majority. When, however, Mr. W. again presented himself before the house, his case came up for consideration, and the ministerial party, who constituted a majority of the commons, decided that, inasmuch as he was ineligible at the time of the election, the votes that had been given for him were void to all intents and purposes, and could neither entitle him to a seat, nor affect the votes given for the opposing candidate. By this decision, they not only excluded Mr. Wilkes from the commons, but gave his place to his competitor. In the analogous case, to which we have alluded, as having occurred in the Kentucky legislature, Mr. Clay, who had instituted the investigation, was chairman of the committee appointed to make a report. This report we have found among the legislative records at Frankfort, and the principles it contains are so sound, and of such universal application, that we have thought proper to make an extract from it. It was drawn up by Mr. C., and adopted unanimously, and its doctrines have, ever since, governed the Kentucky elections. The following are the most important parts of the report.

"The principle of separating, and preserving distinct, the great powers of government, ought rather to be enlarged than circumscribed. But this case is not one in which we have to resort to construction. On the contrary, we have clear and explicit injunctions to guide us. The fact being ascertained, that Mr. Haycraft held an office of profit under the commonwealth, at the time of the election, the constitutional disqualification attaches and excludes him–he was ineligible, and therefore cannot be entitled to his seat."

"It remains to be inquired into the pretensions of Mr. Thomas. His claim can only be supported by a total rejection of the votes given to Mr. Haycraft, as void to all intents whatever. It is not pretended, that they were given by persons not qualified by the constitution; and consequently, if rejected, it must be, not for any inherent objection in themselves, but because they have been bestowed in a manner forbidden by the constitution or laws. By an act passed 18th December, 1800, it is required, that persons holding offices incompatible with seats in the legislature, shall resign them before they are voted for; and it is provided, that all votes given to any such person, prior to such resignation, shall be utterly void."

"This act, when applied to the case in question, perhaps admits of the construction, that the votes given to Mr. Haycraft, though void and ineffectual in creating any right in him to a seat in this house, cannot affect, in any manner, the situation of his competitor. Any other exposition of it is, in the opinion of your committee, wholly inconsistent with the constitution, and would be extremely dangerous in practice. It would be subversive of the great principle of free government, that the majority shall prevail. It would operate as a deception of the people; for it cannot be doubted, that the votes given to Mr. Haycraft, were bestowed upon a full persuasion, that he had a right to receive them. And it would infringe the right of this house, guaranteed by the constitution, to judge of the qualification of its members. It would, in fact, be a declaration, that disqualification produces qualification–that the incapacity of one man capacitates another to hold a seat in this house. Your committee are, therefore, unanimously and decidedly of opinion, that neither of the gentlemen is entitled to a seat."

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(Source: *Biography of Henry Clay* (Second Edition Revised) by George D. Prentice, published by John Jay Phelps, New York, 1831, pp. 44-46.)

GEORGE HELM YEAMAN

Lawyer, Congressman, Minister to Denmark

George Helm Yeaman was born in Hardin county, Kentucky, November 1, 1829, son of Stephen Minor Yeaman (1799 - 1854) and Lucretia Helm Yeaman (1809 - 1886). Although Stephen was admitted to the bar in Hardin County in 1825, he apparently had little liking for that profession, and engaged in various business ventures with little success. He was, however, of an inventive turn of mind, and there are pasted in an old deed book in the Hardin County Court Clerk's office letters patent granted him on an improved winnowing machine (wheat fan) endorsed by James Buchanan as Secretary of State. Lucretia Helm was a sister of Governor John L. Helm and was, according to a family document, "the flower of one of the first families of Kentucky." The Yeamans lived less than a mile from Bethlehem Academy in a small cottage which Lucretia had likely inherited from her family, having been a part of the Helm family farm. Stephen and Lucretia were the parents of six children, four of whom (George, John, William Pope, and Malcolm) lived to maturity. All of the boys were educated in Robert Hewitt's Academy in Elizabethtown.

George H. Yeaman studied law and began practice in Elizabethtown. After a few years he, with his brother Malcolm, went to Owensboro, where he was soon afterward elected County Judge. On May 20, 1855, he married a belle of the "Old South," Lelia P. Triplett, daughter of well-to-do Robert Triplett. George and Lelia lived in a large two-story brick home in Owensboro which was built on the ridge originally owned by Col. Joseph Hamilton Daviess.

At the age of twenty-five, George Helm Yeaman was elected Judge of Daviess County. He represented the County in the Kentucky Legislature1861-62. He was a Union sympathizer, and he, like Abraham Lincoln, felt that preservation of the Union was a cause for which war was not too great a price to pay. Yeaman saw the wrong of slavery, but he also saw that its abrupt and forcible abolition would bring the downfall of the entire economic structure of Kentucky, as well as all the other Southern states. He raised a regiment of soldiers for the Union Army and shortly thereafter was elected to Congress, serving in that body from December 1, 1862 until March 3, 1865. He was an unsuccessful candidate for reelection. However, because of his support of and friendship with President Lincoln, the latter offered him the post of Minister to Denmark. Yeaman accepted the offer and following Lincoln's death, the appointment was made by President Johnson.

The Yeaman family, including his wife, their three children, and her sister, sailed for Copenhagen in October of 1865 and at their journey's end began a wholly new way of life. The Danish court, though small and far from wealthy, was at that time one of the most formal in Europe. The United States had no legation there at that

time, necessitating that the Yeamans seek a suitable dwelling in the city. The new Minister intended to entertain in a manner worthy of his official position. This meant that he and his wife had to contribute to the household expenses from their own means, for his salary was only $5,000.

During the Civil War it had become evident that the United States needed a naval station in the Antilles. Having such a station would have permitted the Union to round up the privateers, blockade runners and contraband traders with much less time and effort. Therefore, it was Yeaman's mission to persuade Denmark to sell the Danish West Indies to the United States. He was well aware that Denmark was not anxious to sell the islands. In addition, the Danish minister in Washington did not favor the sale, and there was strong opposition from several other European countries.

Yeaman worked diligently and overcame all opposition; he persuaded the Danish government to agree to the sale and to accept the $7,500,000 offered by the United States. However, Senator Charles Sumner, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, was bitterly antagonistic to the Johnson administration. Disregarding the serious embarrassment his act would cause the United States, he was responsible that the sale failed ratification by the Senate.

Yeaman felt this a personal failure of his mission to Denmark. In 1870 he resigned and, before sailing for New York, traveled in Europe with his family. They met many leaders of government in the countries they visited.

Returning home, they settled in New York City where Yeaman became associated with one of the leading law firms in the city. In addition, he was a lecturer on constitutional law at Columbia University and active in the New York City Bar Association and the Medico-Legal Society of New York, of which he served as president. In 1881 President Garfield asked him whether he would accept an appointment to the Supreme Court of the United States. Yeaman said that he would, but the matter had not come before the Senate at the time of Garfield's assassination.

For the sake of his wife's health, as well as his own desire for country life, the Yeamans, including two daughters, a son, a son-in-law (the husband of a deceased daughter), and two grandsons, he moved to Madison, New Jersey. However, his wife's state of health was such that she could not enjoy the new and friendly environment. She died soon after the move, as did his married daughter. His son-in-law died within a year.

The time had come, George Yeaman felt, to build himself a home of his own. Never since he left Kentucky had he lived in any other than rented houses. He selected a sightly location, built a modest residence, and started a small garden. He included a number of young fruit trees. Every day he went to his law office; every afternoon he returned to his family and his much loved little estate.

He died at the age of seventy-eight and was interred in Webb Memorial Chapel, Madison, New Jersey.

M. J. J.

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100 Years Ago

NEW FACES AT THE COURTHOUSE

(*The Elizabethtown News,* Jan. 2, 1906)

Monday was not only the day for swearing off but it was also, in the Court House, the day for swearing in, and all of the county officials elected in November were duly installed into their respective offices. There are now several new faces about the Hardin County Temple of Justice, chosen by the people to look after the county affairs for the next four years.

Judge Cyrus Veirs who is familiar about the Court House, ha ing served a term as sheriff, was sworn in as County Judge. He is one of the best men in the county and we are satisfied will make a most excellent official. Judge Rider, who retired Monday, has given the county a splendid business administration. Judge Veirs has moved his family to Elizabethtown and is now identified with our city.

Mr. John Boyd, the new County Attorney, is another new official who has been installed into office. He won his nomination in a bunch of mighty clever fellows and in succeeding Louis Faurest, he comes after one of the best county attorneys in Kentucky and like Judge Veirs has a fine example of a faithful and intelligent administration.

Another new face connected with the administration of county affairs is Mr. J. L. Pilkenton who was sworn in as County Superintendent, having been elected last November to the first office he ever held. He like Judge Veirs has moved his family to Elizabethtown and has become identified with the city and its interests.

"Uncle" Joe Williams came in from the farm where he has spent his life to fill the office of Jailer and was duly installed Monday into Castle Patterson over which popular Dan Patterson has presided for two terms.

Mr. George Yates stepped from the office of Deputy Sheriff to the position of High Sheriff and promptly gave his bond together with his two very clever and popular deputies, Wag Hart and Fuller Gross.

The County Clerk's office is the only important one in which the people made no change. They were satisfied for Frank [Corley] to issue their marriage licenses and record their deeds for another four years and he was so popular that he was given a nomination and elected without opposition.

Charles Egemann will continue to hold inquests on the dead and continue for the next four years in being very much alive himself in looking out for business.

In the Assessor's office we have three new men to find out how much we ought to pay taxes on for the next term. They are Clint Crume and his two well known deputies, Tom Durbin and Clarence Hays. Good fellows all of them and [they] will earn every dollar they get and treat the people right.

The new Fiscal Court is composed of the six magistrates from the several districts in the county, and they too have been duly commissioned for a period of four years. There are several new magistrates in the new court. Capt. Sam Sanders is the magistrate from the first district. Marion Caswell from the second district. W. H. Oliver from the third district. J. K. Board from the fourth district. Robert Sheets from the fifth district. And Q. W. Johnson from the sixth district.

We take off our hat to all of the officers, whether new or old, and the *News* extends the glad hand to each of you. We will take pleasure in endorsing everything that you do right and hope you will never do anything else.

President's Message

I want to take this opportunity to welcome everyone to another Hardin County Historical Society year. The Hardin County Historical Society has existed over seventy five years and it is paramount that we keep this organization a part of the Hardin County community.

Another part of our historical community, the Brown-Pusey House, has fallen on hard times. You probably read in the local paper about the house being closed. Beginning January 17th, the house will be open on a limited basis. The hours of operation will be from 10:00 to 4:00 Tuesday through Saturday. The Brown-Pusey House is in need of volunteers and monetary contributions. If you feel you can help with this endeavor, contact Caroline Ritchie.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting on January 23rd at the State Theater First Federal Gallery.

Kenneth L. Tabb
President

Emilie T. Helm, Postmaster

Mrs. Emilie T. Helm was re-appointed postmaster of Elizabethtown last week. This will make her third term. She was first appointed under President Arthur, then under President Cleveland, and now under President Harrison. Hon. Robert Lincoln, the present Minister to England and her nephew, has been the potent factor in securing her appointment under Republican administrations, and she had powerful Democratic influence under Mr. Cleveland. Besides Mr. Lincoln's influence, this time she had letters of recommendation from twenty of the leading Republicans of Louisville, and every Republican member of the Constitutional Convention.

(*The Elizabethtown News,* January 16, 1891)

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ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING

The Hardin County Historical Society will meet Monday evening, January 23, 2006, 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 $7.50 per person.

The program will be presented by Donna McCreary of Charlestown, Ind. Donna holds BS and MS degrees in Secondary Education with teaching certification in English, US History, Speech, and Theatre. She is an award-winning educator who knows how to bring history alive for groups of all ages.

Her presentation is called "The Gift of Love." The subject matter is the story of Robert Todd Lincoln, the President's son, and the loving relationship he had with his Aunt Emilie Todd Helm and her family. After the death of the President's widow, Robert was able to do something his mother could never do–forgive and embrace Confederate members of the Todd family. Through his love and respect for Emilie, Robert was able to communicate and help other members of the family. This program is based on letters between the Robert Lincoln family and the Emilie Helm family, most of which have never been published.

For dinner reservations telephone Mary Jo Jones, 270-765-5593, by NOON, FRIDAY, January 20. If you find later that you can attend, phone Mary Jo, as there are occasional cancellations.

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