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Bits and Pieces

of Hardin County History

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Vol. XIV NO. 1

ROBERT BEIMDICK, EDITOR

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GENERAL CUSTER & TROOPS SPENT YEARS IN E-TOWN

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Shortly after the Civil War, General George Armstrong Custer with his Seventh Cavalry was dispatched to Kansas to suppress an Indian uprising. This troop, after five years active service in the West in addition to its service in the Civil War, was worn gaunt and tired by such a strenuous life and was badly in need of a long rest. The Federal Government at this time was stationing troops in many sections of the South to control the Ku Klux Klan and Carpet Baggers and to break up illicit distilleries which had sprung up during the war. Such distinctive service which had been rendered by the general merited a rest and in the early seventies this troop was ordered South.

A battalion of the Seventh Cavalry and a battalion of the Fourth Infantry were sent to Elizabethtown in 1871, under the command of General Custer. This command was stationed in the town for two years, but as the town did not have an organized group of the Klan and as there were few illicit distilleries and no Carpet Baggers, the soldiers settled down for a prolonged rest which they so much deserved after their many years of active warfare.

Most of these soldiers before their arrival had been engaged in fighting the Indians and practically all of them fought in the Civil War. The sympathies of Elizabethtown were largely with the Confederacy, and it was wondered by

the many what relations would exist between the soldiers and citizens, but when the battalions arrived they were received very cordially.

The General, due to his personality, became one of the most popular men in the town and made many friends among the Elizabethtown people. He was a graduate of West Point and served as aide-de-camp to Generals McClellan and Pleasanton during the Civil War. He was the youngest man who ever held the rank of major-general of volunteers in the American since the Revolutionary War, when the youthful Marquis de Lafayette received a similar recognition from the Continental Congress. Custer's rank during the Civil War was next to that of General Phil Sheridan. Being a wonderful swordsman, he compared favorably with Stewart, Mosby, and Forrest of the Confederacy.

He was over six feet tall and weighted about 190 pounds. He was a typical blond, wearing his hair so long that it hung over his shoulders. He also wore a beard. The Indians called him "Yellow Hair." No soldier ever had a more courteous and distinguished bearing. He was respected and honored by all classes of society. His appearance was very striking in any company and his very presence commanded attention. If General Custer had lived in the time of knight errantry, he would have been a Richard Coeur-de-Lion.

Being a superb horseman, he kept a fine stable of Kentucky thoroughbreds and a pack of

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Russian wolf and English stag hounds as he was very fond of hunting. While residing in Elizabethtown, he frequently hunted small game and would occasionally go to other sections of Kentucky in order to hunt deer. His life on the plains had made him an expert hunter, and as a diversion from army life he preferred hunting to any other form of recreation.

The battalion, while stationed in Elizabethtown, was able to procure fine Kentucky horses and the seasoned soldiers mounted upon their thoroughbreds presented a commanding appearance. The Seventh Cavalry at this time was probably the best troop of the regular army.

During the stay of the troops in the town, a very sad tragedy occurred. A small boy, the grandson of Stephen Elliott, a well-known citizen of the community, was accidentally killed by one of Custer's men. The soldier was so frightened by the accident that he ran away and was never heard of again. It is not known whether he was killed or changed his identity. Tradition says that the tragedy was purely accidental.

General Custer was very fond of children and played games with them during his spare time. He also enjoyed playing chess with his Elizabethtown friends and he attended many dances which were held in the old "Kaufman Hall" which was situated on the present site of First Hardin National Bank.

Many of the officers were married and made their homes in Elizabethtown. Entertainments were frequent and the social affairs of Elizabethtown during these two eventful years were very brilliant. The unmarried officers who boarded at the hotels were much in demand socially and the entire town took on a metropolitan air which has never since been equaled.

General Custer on many occasions attended political meetings in Louisville as he was a loyal Democrat. On one occasion while in Louisville attending a political meeting, Colonel Blanton Duncan made a remark in Custer's presence which offended the General and he immediately slapped Duncan in the face. Friends stopped the fight and prevented any further difficulty. So

intense was his zeal for the Democrats that he was one of the few noted leaders to Champion the cause of President Andrew Johnson.

When the Grand Duke Alexis of Russia visited America he came through Elizabethtown on his way West for a hunting expedition, and a large crowd gathered near the depot to greet him. While the train was stopped at the Elizabethtown station one of the prominent citizens made him a speech, but the Grand Duke after he saw General Custer on his fine mount, with his wonderful pack of hounds, paid no more attention to what was being said. He alighted from the train and inspected both the horse and the hounds. General Custer later accompanied the Grand Duke on his famous hunt, which included in its party the famous scout, Buffalo Bill who acted as guide.

The General and his wife, while stationed in Elizabethtown, made their home in a part of the Hill House, then kept by "Aunt Beck" Hill. The greater part of this building is standing today and is known as the Brown-Pusey Community House. It was remodeled and presented to the city by Drs. William and Brown Pusey, former residents of Elizabeth-town, in honor of their aunt, Mrs. Hill. During the Elizabethtown residence of the Custers, there were several small brick houses exactly like the small one joined to the building now standing. These small houses were part of the Hill property, probably belonging to Mrs. Hill's step-son. A long porch ran the full length of these smaller houses and connected with the Hill House proper and persons occupying these quarters could reach the dining room from this rear porch. It is most likely that the Custers occupied one of the small houses by reason of the fact that they were permanent residents. The transient guests possibly were given rooms in the large building. The meals of all guests, however, were served in the dining room of the Hill House. This dining room is today the assembly room of the Brown-Pusey House.

The Hill House was in its zenith during the early seventies when General Custer and his command were stationed in Elizabethtown. A great many of the officers of higher rank boarded with Mrs. Hill. A quarter of a century before no

less a personage than Jenny Lind sang to a gathering of Elizabethtown citizens from the front entrance steps of this noted hostelry.

The cavalry unit was stationed on the present site of the Masonic Theatre, on South Main Street and the horses were kept in stables adjoining and across the street from this site. Major Kane who commanded the battalion of infantry had his men quartered where Mobley's Garage now stands on Dixie Avenue. Another barrack was located at the Fraize house near the new Post Office. The parade grounds were located on the present site of the Christian Church and on adjoining lots on Dixie Avenue. The guard house was opposite the St. James School on Poplar Street. The infantry drilled where the Old Fair Ground was situated. The hospital was located in the Bobo house across the street from the Warfield property on Dixie Avenue.

Frank Catiprede

*Red
cross
1995*

Across the street from the hospital (Cofer House) lived Captain John Smith. This officer was a brother-in-law to Custer and the Elizabethtown citizens marveled at the numerous times he would change his clothes during a day, alternating from uniforms to various civilian outfits. Captain Smith was killed at the Little Big Horn.

General Custer's residence in Elizabethtown was interrupted immediately after the Chicago fire when he was ordered with a part of his command which included a Lieutenant True with a company of soldiers, to that city, to maintain order. He was stationed in Chicago several months until peace was restored, when he was ordered to return to Elizabethtown.

Dr. B. F. Pope, a surgeon in the Seventh Cavalry, married an Elizabethtown girl, Miss Lee Poston, a daughter of S. D. Poston and a granddaughter of Samuel Haycraft, Jr., the historian of Elizabethtown. Dr. Pope died several years later in the Philippines. It is more than likely that other marriages took place during the two-years stay of the troop.

In the spring of 1873, General Custer and the Seventh Cavalry were ordered to Dakota which

was then a territory. Life for the battalion was probably becoming more or less monotonous to the active soldiers, and General Custer, although much attached to his Elizabethtown friends, desired to be transferred to the seat of the Indian hostilities which he was ordered to subject to his control. The troops with their families immediately upon receiving their first orders, hurriedly packed and left Elizabethtown over the Louisville & Nashville Railroad for Memphis where steamers transported them to Cairo. From there they were carried by rail to Dakota Territory.

The massacre which occurred June 25, 1876 at the Battle of the Little Big Horn where General Custer and his 277 troopers were killed by the Sioux under Sitting Bull is a fact well-known in history. Probably in no place in the United States was there so much sorrow over the death of this valiant soldier and his men as there was in Elizabethtown where the famous Seventh Cavalry had many friends.

While the battalion was in Elizabethtown, a man named John Ragsdale enlisted under Custer. Several years after the Custer massacre, Ragsdale returned to Elizabethtown stating that he had been at the Battle of the Little Big Horn and was shot down, but by pretending to be dead, the Indians did not notice him and he was able to escape. Little credit, however, can be given to the Ragsdale tradition as several others have claimed the same feat. All but one of the creditable authorities of the Custer massacre say that the entire troop was killed.

In 1880 Mrs. Elizabeth Bacon Custer returned to Elizabethtown for a day and while there many of her friends visited her. She was a very charming woman who spent quite a bit of her life in army camps, usually accompanying her husband on all of his campaigns. On April 4, 1933, she died at her home on Park Avenue in New York City after a brief illness. She was ninety-one years old and had been a widow for fifty-seven years.

In 1885 Mrs. Custer published a book entitled Boots and Saddles in which she related in one of the first chapters her two-year residence in Elizabethtown.

1801 Court

COURT ORDER BOOK, HARDIN COUNTY, KENTUCKY
OCTOBER, 1801

At a County Court began and held for Hardin County at the Courthouse in Elizabethtown on Monday the 12th day of October 1801

Present Isom Enlowe Thomas McIntire William Withers & Afa Coombes Esquires

George Lindsey vs John Southerland Dismifsed--agrees the Deft paying (only) one half of the Clerks fees

The Same Vs The Same Same

On the motion of James Young It is ordered that Benjamin Shacklett John Jenkins Henry Branenburg & William DitteBeberg Do veiw the nearest & best way for a road to be opened from the mouth of Salt river to Breckenridge County line on a direct Course to Breckenridge Courthouse. They being first sworn before a Majjstrate of this County according to law

James Williams Ear-mark a crop off each ear & a Slit in the right O.R.

On the motion of William Munford & for reasons appearing to the Court It is ordered that Christopher Brunk be & he is hereby exempted from the future payment of County levies in this County

An Indenture of Apprenticeship Between Benjamin Helm Clerk of this Court bindingout Christian Miller to Robert Huston was acknowledged by the Parties thereto & ordered to be recorded

Ordered that Alexander Lashly be & he is hereby appointed Surveyor of the road that Hardin Thomas is Surveyor, and that the same hands do afsist him in opening & keeping the same in repair that afsisted the said Thomas

Ordered that Tobias Hendricks be & he is hereby appointed Surveyor of the road that leads from Middle Creek opposite Wm Jenkins to Hodgens new Mill and that all the hands that afsisted John Humphreis former Surveyor of the said Road do afsist the said Hendricks in opening & keeping the same in repair

On the Motion of Robert Denbo It is ordered that John Crutcher George Helm Robert Huston be & they are hereby appointed Commifioners for the purpose of Conveying a certain tract of land lying in this County containing three hundred acres of land sold by Nathaniel Forrester decd in his life time to the aforesd Robert Denbo & Conrad Curtz agreeable to an Act of Afsembly in such cases made & provided

On the Motion of Lettice Vanmetre License is granted her to keep tavern at her present Dwelling house in this County for one year next ensuing this time, she having given bond with Jacob Vanmetre her security according to law

Ordered that John Vertrees Benjamin Helm Charles Helm Asa Coombes James Crutcher & John W Hall Gentlemen be & they are hereby appointed trustees for the town of Elizabeth agreebly to an Act of Afsembly in such Cases made & provided.

A deed from Philip Phillips & Susanna his wife to Thomas Williams was fully proved by the Oath of Samuel Watkins a Subscribing witnefs thereto & Ordered to be recorded

Ordered that Henry Dewitt be & is hereby appointed Surveyor of the road leading from the Rolling fork to the big hill in the room of Benjamin Johnson and that the same hands do afsist him in opening & keeping the same in repair that afsisted the said Johnson.

Ordered that Thomas Williams pay unto Nancy Gun two Shillings & one penny for attending this Court one day this term to prove a Deed from Philip Phillips & wife to him

Ordered that William Allen Senr be & he is hereby appointed Surveyor of the road that leads from Hardin Courthouse to the Mouth of Salt river begining at the Sign Post in the barrens where the said road leaves the road that leads from the said Courthouse to Breckenridge Courthouse about two miles from Hardin Courthouse and that all the hands afsist him in opening & keeping the same in repair that afsisted Robert C. Slaughter the former Overseer of the sd road

Ordered that it be Certified to the Auditor of Public Accounts that the taxes on the following tracts of Land in the name of Jacob LaRue have been paid for the year 1799 to wit 1086 acres of (?) tract lying in Mercer County on Chaplins fork. Also 5000 acres (?) in the same County on Bensons Waters. Also 1000 acres (?) in the same County on Nolinn Waters. Also 900 acres in the same County and on the

same waters as per recd from the Register of the land office of Kentucky. Also that he has paid the taxes on the following tracts of land taxes have been paid for the year 1800 towit 1806 acres in Mercer County on Chaplins fork. Also 5000 acres in the same County on Benson Waters. Also 1000 in Hardin County on Nolinn Waters. Also 300 acres in the same County on the same waters as of this (?) for the years above. As per Auditors recd which sd taxes above mentiond appear to be charged to him by the Sheriff

On the Motion of William Buzan It is ordered that the said William Buzan & Aza Humphreis be & they are hereby exempted from serving as Patrollers in this County & that John Hodgen & John Glenn be & they are hereby appointed in their Place

An Indenture of Apprenticeship Between Benjamin Helm Clerk of this Court binding out Elizabeth Miller to Daniel Holman was acknowledged by the parties thereto & ord. to Record

*Wesman
from Nall Valley*
Daniel Waid this day came into Court & claimed a Certificate for a Settlement of two hundred acres of land at the State price lying & being in Hardin County on the little South fork of Nolinn to include his improvement adjoining the upper end of Isarel Christians Survey of 1500 acres and adjoining 100 acres of Jefsee Friends Satisfactory proof being made to the Court they are of opinion that the said Daniel Waide is intitled to a Certificate for a settlement of 200 acres to include his improvements & run agreeable to the above entry It is therefore ordered that a Certificate ifssue accordingly

John Kesinger who stands charged on Oath by Miny Ann Smoot single woman of this County with being the father of her Bastard Child and stands bound by recognisance to appear here this day to abide by & perform the orders of this Court concerning the same Appeared and thereupon the sd Miny Ann Smoot & sundry witneses being sworn & examined & the said John Kesinger heard in his defence. This Court doth thereupon & upon the Circumstances of the Case doth thereupon and upon adjudge the said John Kesinger to be the father of such Bastard child and that such Child is likely to be come Chargeable to the County. Thereupon it is ordered that he be charged with the annual payment of seven pounds for the first year commencing from the 14th day of April 1801 and five pounds for the second year. three pounds for the third year & three pounds for the fourth to the said Miny Ann Smoot for the Maintainance of the said Child in Case it shall live so long and that he pay the same to her at the end of every of the said four years. Whereupon the said John Kesinger with Soloman Kesiner came into Court and Acknowledged themselves to be severally & jointly indebted to James Garrard Esquire Governor of Kentucky in the full and just sum of thirty six pounds current money of their respective goods chattles lands & tenaments to be _____ said Governor & his successors rendered upon the condition that if the said John Casinger shall observe & perform the above order against him as aforsd then this judgment to be void---and Judgment for _____

Miny Ann Smoot vs John Kesinger John Ashcraft claims one days attendance for the same

The Sames vs The Same John Smoot claims the same for the same

The Same vs The Same David McClure Claims one Days attendance for Defendant

On the motion of Jacob Larue It is ordered that he be exempted from the payment of the County Levy for one year to wit L800 for one Tithable

Daniel L Morrison vs James Lawson Magistrates Judgment affirmed

Ordered that Court be adjourned untill Tomorrow morning at 9 OClock

Ths McIntire

Tuesday the 13th day of October 1801 The Court met according to adjournment

Present Thomas McIntire Isom Enlow William Withers Samuel Rice & Afa Combes Esquires

The Court proceeded to lay the County Levy of this County a statement of which is as follows, to wit,

Hardin County

To Felix Grundy Attorney for the Commonwealth for the Court of Quarter Sessions	L25.00.00
To Benjamin Helm Clerk of the Quarter Sessions Court for paper furnished for the use of his Office for one year & for Copies of the ifsue Docketts	
for the said Court for one year	L02.11.00
To Isom Enlow Capt Patrolar for his services	L01.16.00
To Joseph Kirkpatrick Capt Patroler for his services	L01.16.00
To Samuel Larue for his services as Private	L02.14.00
To George Rust for his services as Private	L02.14.00
To Isaac Hodgen for his services as Private	L02.14.00
To Joseph Maning for two wolf scalps for the benefit of William Buzan	L00.16.00
To Jacob Miller for one wolf scalp	L00.08.00
To John Humphries for one wolf scalp	L00.08.00
Amt carried over	L40.17.00
To John Sweareanes for one wolf scalp	L00.08.00
To John Rice for the Same	L00.08.00
To Theophilus Barton for two wolf scalps	L00.16.00
To Peter Harrison for one Ditto	L00.08.00
To James Pierce for one Ditto	L00.08.00
To Thomas Williams for one Ditto	L00.08.00
To Jacob Vanmetre for one Ditto	L00.08.00
To James Wyatt for one Ditto	L00.08.00
To Jacob Vertrees Senr for one Ditto	L00.08.00
To John Paul for three Ditto	L00.24.00
To William Hall for one Ditto	L00.08.00
To the Same for two Ditto	L00.16.00
To John Walters for one Ditto	L00.08.00
To David Greenawalt for two young for the benefit of Daniel Waide	L00.08.00
To David Bozarth for one Ditto	L00.08.00
To the same for two Ditto	L00.16.00
To Henry Ditto for three Ditto	L01.04.00
To Thomas Williams for one Ditto	L00.08.00
Amt carried over	L59.15.00
To Ichabod Radly for one wolf scalp for the benefit of Robert C Slaughter	L00.08.00
To James Herrels for one wolf scalp	L00.08.00
To Junis Applegate for one Ditto for the benefit of Silas Anderson	L00.08.00
To Richard Downs for one old Ditto	L00.08.00
To Junis Applegate for one old Ditto for the benefit of Silas Anderson	L00.08.00
To Robert C Slaughter for one Ditto	L00.08.00
To John Holman for one Ditto	L00.08.00
To Christian Miller for one Ditto	L00.08.00
To Daniel Dewese for two Ditto	L00.16.00
To Robert C Slaughter for setting up a sign post at the forks of the road leading to West Point & Hardinsburg	L00.09.00
To James Purcefull for Iron forms & repairs done to the Jail	L03.17.00
To James Larue for one old wolf scalp	L00.08.00
To Thomas Hargis for burial expenses on Mathias James a poor person	L02.00.00
To Daniel Linder Senr for one old wolf scalp	L00.08.00
To Christopher Bush for keeping the stray pen twelve months	L02.02.00
Amt carried over	L64.17.00

To James Duncan for six old wolf scalps	L02.08.00
To Clerk of Court of Quarter Sessions for sundries furnished for the use of the office	L01.19.00
To Benjamin Helm for his ex officio services for one year	L12.00.00
To Robert Hodgen Sheriff of this County for his ex officio services for one year	L12.00.00
To Thomas McIntire for examining the Clerks & Surveyors office	L00.12.00
To Philip Read for the same	L01.04.00
To David Morrison for keeping of Garrard Dalton a poor person for one year	L16.00.00
To Christopher Bush for Damages for a road leading thru his land & Ests	L08.07.10
To Isom Enlow for Superintending the last Election as Judge	L00.18.00
To George Bell for the Same	L00.18.00
To John Kennedy for attending the same as Clerk	L00.18.00
Amt carried over	L122.07.10
To James Crutcher for repairs done to the Courthouse & Jail	L90.00.00
To Benjamin Helm Clerk of the Court for the use of his house for an office one year	L10.10.00
To a Depositum & Sheriffs Coms	L34.06.09
	L256.48.07

Cr by 846 Tithables at 6/1/ per tithable

Ordered that the Sheriff Collect six shillings one penny from each Tithable person in this County & out of the money arising thereby pay unto the several County Creditors their respective allowances and account with the Court for the Balance

An Indenture of Apprenticeship between Benjamin Helm Clerk of this Court binding out Margaret Miller daughter of Henry Miller a poor child to Robert Kennedy was acknowledged by the parties thereto & ord to Record

Ordered that it be Certified to the Auditor of Public Accounts that Nicholas Miller Commifisioner of the Revenue tax in this County for the year 1801 is allowed twenty seven pounds for his services & furnishing paper etc.

Benjamin Helm Clerk of this Court & the Court of Quarter Sefsions exhibited an account of the tax on Deeds & law Helcefs for one year commencing on the first day of October 1800 & ending the first of October 1801 & sworn to & examined & approved of by the Court & ordered to be Certified

Ordered that Benjamin Helm Clerk of this Court be allowed four Dollars for examining the Commifisioners book for the present year

On the Motion of Jacob LaRue It is ordered that it be certified to the Auditor of Public Accounts that the taxes have been paid on the following tracts of land entered in the name of Jabez LaRue for the year 1800 To wit, 500 acres 2nd rate land in Shelby County also 400 acres 2nd rate in the Shelby County Also 2040 acres 2nd rate in Hardin County Also 700 acres 2nd rate in Hardin County as per record from the Auditor of Public Accounts Also that the taxes have been paid on the following tracts of land entered in the name of James Larue for the year 1800 to wit 4000 acres in Shelby County third rate Also 700 acres 2nd rate in Shelby County Also 400 acres 2nd rate in Shelby County Also 5000 acres 2nd rate in Shelby County Also 950 acres third rate land in Hardin County as per recd from the Auditor

Ordered that the Sheriff pay unto Thomas Hargis forty dollars that was levied in November last for the support of Matthias Jane

Ordered that the Sheriff pay unto Benjamin Helm Clerk of this Court out of the Depositum in his hands for the year 1801 a sufficiency to purchase a book for the purpose of recording Deeds the amt not to exceed thirty Dollars.

Ordered that the Sheriff of this County pay unto Charles Helm Surveyor of this County out of the Depositum in his hands for the year 1801 seven Dollars for the purpose of getting a record book for the

use of his office

Ordered that Philip Read & Thomas McIntire Gentlemen be recommended to his Excellency James Garrard Esquire Governor of Kentucky as fit persons to fill the office of Sheriff in this County

Ordered that the Order made this day in favor of James Crutcher for three hundred Dollars that is levied in the County levy for the year 1801 be & the same is hereby resinded in case the Sheriff shall pay his Demand out of the Depositum in his hands for the year 1799 or in Case the sd Sheriff shall not pay the hole the order of the Court made in favor of him this day to be credited by what he shall pay him and the Sheriff to acct with the Court for the over _____

Ordered that Jacob Larue be and he is hereby appointed Inspector of Hemp & Tobacco in this County on his entering into Bond & approved Security at the next term

Christopher Bush is hereby appointed to take care of Alexander Murdough a poor person for the space of nine months and be allowed at the rate of fifteen pounds per year for keeping him. Ordered that Isom Enlow be allowed four Dollars in addition to what he was allowed this day for his services as Capt Patroler in this County

Ordered that John M Hall be & he is hereby appointed Attorney for the Common-wealth in this Court he having taken the Oath required by Law

It is the opinion of this Court that John M Hall who is appointed Attorney for the Commonwealth in this County be allowed forty Dollars for his services for one year to be levied at the laying of the next County levy.

Ordered that John M Hall & Benjamin Helm & Thomas McIntire be appointed to settle with the Sheriff of this County for the year 1800 & make report thereof to the next Court

Ordered that this Court be adjourned untill Court in Course
Ths McIntire

ELIZABETHTOWN CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS 1826

At a meeting of the trustees of Elizabeth Town on Friday the 11th day of August 1826 at the Clerks office in said Town Present Arthur Park, Armd. H. Churchill, Isaac C. Adair and William M. Dunavan Gentlemen Trustees

On motion made and seconded Arthur Park is appointed President of the Board

Whereas the Throwing of Rockets on fire in town for the purposes of Amusement is attended with Danger Be it Therefore Ordained by the trustees of Elizabeth Town that Any person, for amusement or otherwise that shall throw any fire or run through any part of the town Except on the public square any barrel or any other substance on fire if a free person shall be fined the Sum of one Dollar to be recovered before any Justice of the Peace and if a slave shall receive on his bare back not more than five lashed at the discretion of the Justice to be inflicted by order of a Justice of the Peace Provided that the Carrying fire from one house to another for domestic purposes shall not be considered as prohibited hereby. Be it further ordained that it shall be the duty of the Collector of town to see that this Ordinance be carried into effect and prosecuted for any and all breaches thereof

Ordered that the Board adjourn Test Jas. E. Stone Clk. Arthur Park Prst.

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees of Elizabeth Town at the Clerks office in said Town on the 14th day of August 1826 Present John Hill, Isaac C. Adair, William M. Dunavan & A. M. Churchill Gentlemen Trustees

On motion made and seconded ordered that William M. Dunavan be appointed President Pro Tempore of the Board

Andrew Perrin and Company being about to exhibit certain puppet shows and other curiosities in this town they are permitted to do so by paying the sum of one dollar and twenty five cents in commonwealth Bank paper for each time of exhibition or performance within the limits of the town to be paid to the clerk of the Board

Rec'd 24 July 1995

CONSTITUTION and BY-LAWS
of the
HARDIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

(ESTABLISHED JULY 1931)

Note: Document retyped with no change in text or wording.
Original document on file with Secretary's Minutes Book.
Document retyped April 4, 1995.

Article I

The name of the organization shall be the Hardin County Historical Society.

Article II

Elizabethtown, Kentucky shall be the place where the Society is located.

Article III

The object of this society shall be the discovery, collection and preservation of historic facts, data and records, and the filing and custody of the same, also the collection and preservation of objects of any sort that are distinctive of the history, traditions or legends of the people, and the collection of all objects bearing on the physical formation of the county and the discovery of the different forms of life which it has produced; and the stimulation of the study of local history and the encouragement of research work in the original source of such history; especially, to promote this work and purpose in Hardin County, and generally, in those counties which have been formed in whole or in part from the territory embraced in the original Hardin County. And the objective and purpose of this Society shall never be diverted to the financial profit of any individual, firm, or corporation. In case of termination of this Society, any and all remaining assets shall be diverted to some other literary, religious or civic organization.

Ordered that the Board adjourn Will M. Dunavan Pret Pt.

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees of Elizabethtown at the Clerks office in said Town on Tuesday the 3rd day of October 1826 Present Arthur Park, Isaac C. Adair, William M. Dunavan, John Hill and A. M. Churchill Trustees of said Town

Whereas so much of the public alley of this Town as lies between Lots No. 34 & No. 35 is obstructed with fencing it is ordered that the same be opened on or before the first day of November 1826 and on failure of the person or persons who put the said fencing across the alley to remove the same by the time herein mentioned it is ordered that the town collector proceed to take out a warrant against such person or persons from a Justice of the Peace & proceed to the recovery of such fines as are inflicted for the obstruction of the streets or alleys of the Town under the bye Laws of the Town. And it is ordered that the clerk cause to be delivered to the occupiers of said lots a copy of this order Ordered that the obstructions across the alley lying between lots No. 9 & 10 be removed by the persons putting the same in said alley by the first day of next month & in default of such removal it is ordered that the Town collector proceed against such person or persons obstructing the streets or alleys of the Town by taking out a warrant from a Justice of the Peace for that purpose And it is ordered that the clerk cause to be delivered to the occupiers of said lots a copy of this order

Ordered that the Board now adjourn Arthur Park Pres.

HISTORY OF STEPHENSBURG

By Homemakers Club Reading Chairman, Mrs. Oral Richardson
Elizabethtown NEWS 1 March 1949

The first known resident of Stephensburg carried the family name, Stevens from which, the town received its name. During Mr. Stevens' time, Stephensburg was a good size town. It contained three churches. One was located just across the highway from what is now Gus Hart's Store, another, (a colored church) was located south of this store and the third, a Presbyterian Church, was built on what was known as the Old Camp Ground. People used to bring their families in wagons and come for miles and stay weeks at a time to attend meetings at this Camp Ground. They also brought their own provisions. Besides these churches, there were three hotels, four stores (Garnder's Store, the largest one), a saddle shop and four saloons.

Stage coaches were in use at that time and made daily stops at one of the hotels, which is known as the Old Brick, and now the present home of Mr. and Mrs. Gus Hart. At this place,

the coach drivers changed horses as this was the only stop between Elizabethtown and Leitchfield.

There have been several different school house locations, the first being located on the Porter farm now owned by Mrs. Mary Stewart. Later it was moved to the place owned by the late Mrs. Ethel Hatfield, then moved to the Old Buckley Place. After a few years a new school house was built on land donated by Mr. James Parr, father of Mrs. Nat Berry and is still used.

About 1790 a Masonic Lodge was built which was one of the largest lodges in the western part of the state. This remained until Kentucky was divided into counties, after which it was moved to Franklin Cross Roads where it is today and known as Stephensburg Masonic Lodge.

A few years later the I. C. Railroad was built, the right of way being donated by the landowners. This was what is now known as New Stephsburg. Just after the railroad was built the Stephsburg Post Office was established and still remains.

About this time in the history of the town, a large lake was formed which is now used for fishing and as a summer resort. This lake was once in the woods and later cleared and cultivated by Tom Daugherty, grandfather of Mrs. Stella Lewis. This land was low and swampy with a small branch running through it which, emptied into a cave that had a very small entrance so, a Mr. Keith decided to make the entrance larger but a huge rock fell from above and closed the entrance entirely. So, Stephsburg Lake was formed. In 1852, Mr. Daugherty operated a large stream mill at this lake.

The first rock quarry was started over 50 years ago by a stock company and was known as Stephsburg Quarry and sold all grades of rock and a fine grade of lime. The present quarry known as the Kentucky Stone Company was established about 35 years ago and does a thriving business.

There are three very old houses in Stephsburg, the James Parr house now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Harley Tuncil was built many years ago by a Mr. Gardner, grandfather of Mr. John Gardiner; the Old Brick, built by a Mr. Larue, grandfather of Mr. Joe Barnes of White Mills, and owned by Mr. and Mrs. Gus Hart. And, the Old Segarcy house owned by Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Morrison.

The oldest natives of Stephsburg are Mrs. Mary Stewart and Mrs. Nat Berry having spent their entire lives there. Mrs. Minnie Williams and Mr. Claude Hoover are the two oldest residents of the New Stephsburg.

The "Duck Puddle" in Mrs. Stella Lewis' field is known far and wide as the "Ole Swimmin' Hole," where nearly every boy in Stephsburg learned the art of diving and swimming.

Many nationalities of people have resided in Stephsburg in past years. An Indian child was born in a covered wagon in a wooded area near the present site of Mr. Harry Gore's residence. And a colored family by the name of Henny owned a small house and lived there a short while.

Quite a few doctors had their offices in Stephsburg. About 1890 Dr. Strickler had a small office in what is now Mrs. Stella Lewis' front yard. Dr. Willett also practiced there in about 1900. Dr. King practiced in the New Stephsburg about 1902, Dr. Shacklette about 1904, and Dr. Addis in about 1909.

In 1912 a Union Church was built in New Stephsburg. It is owned by the Methodist, Presbyterian and Christian Churches. They have splendid church activities and quite an active Sunday School of which Mr. Will Pirtle is superintendent and Mr. S. C. Barnes, Mrs. William Stewart and Mrs. Arnold Vincent are the teachers.

In 1917 many of the young men of the Stephsburg community were called into service of their country in World War I and in 1930 a group of these veterans met at Stephsburg School House and formed an American Legion which was chartered and named West Hardin County Post 108. Nat Berry served the first two years as Commander of the Post followed by Oral Richardson. Of the group of charter members of this post two have passed away, Arch Young and James Lilly. In 1934 an auxiliary to this Post was formed known as Unit 108 American Legion Auxiliary. Mrs. Oral Richardson served the first two years as president followed by Mrs. C. S. Givan. Of the charter members, one, Mrs. Catherine Richardson, has passed away. This Post and Unit are quite active and rank as one of the strongest in Kentucky. Many of the boys served their country during World War II. One of the boys of Stephsburg, Raymond Morrison, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Morrison, gave his life, while many others are wearing the Purple Heart Decoration.

As of this date, 1949, Stephensburg and New Stephensburg communities are proud of their church and stores owned by Mr. Will Pirtle, Mr. Henry Peters, Mr. Gus Hart, Mrs. Node Barnes and Mr. Coy Willis, as well as The Modern Woodman, Royal Neighbors, and The Homemakers Club. To know the community better visit some of the Sephensburg residents and the various organizations.

(Article was found in scrapbook belonging to the late Mrs. Evelyn Lewis Owsley.)

HUMOR

from the May 30, 1890 issue of the Elizabethtown News.

The girl who was caught running away with her would-be husband is a cant-elope.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

from the Elizabethtown News, Feb 24, 1870.

B.F. Smith to George W. Abbott, 105 acres, Rolling Fork, \$1,200;

Jas. G. Stephens and John Burk by James G. Stephens attorney in fact, to Joseph A. Watson, 380 acres more or less, Rough Creek, \$1,860.

William A. Brooks and heirs of David Blakely, by A.B. Montgomery, Commissioner to Samuel Blakely, tract of land on Otter Creek;

George W. Stump to James McClure 69 and 3/4 acres on Nashville Turnpike, \$700.

John Swan to Peter Kelly, 20 acres and 32 poles near Nolyyn Station, \$1,030.

J.T. Carlisle to John F. Bennett, 63 and 1/2 acres on Otter Creek, \$625;

James H. Howell to James A. Nall, 139 1/2 acres on Big Spring road, \$1,700.

Jesse Q. Kerfoot to Adam Cecil one acre on Howe's Valley road, \$50.

Sue A. and G.H. Churchill to Wm. B. Read, interest in 300 acres of land on Meeting Creek \$350.

Jonathan M. Martin to Daniel J. Martin 57 acres, 3 rods and 26 poles on Mays Run, \$342.

Felix H. Woodring to John M. Watts, 118 acres in Howe's Valley \$2,478.

from the Elizabethtown News, Oct 26, 1871

Benjamin F. Burcham to School District No. 27, one acre, \$1.00

Geo. V. Burkhead to Mrs. Wm. V. Smallwood, 83 and 76 acres on Big Meeting Creek, \$600.

Samuel Haycraft to John G. Thomas, Lot no. 95 in Haycraft's addition to Elizabethtown, \$200.

Jacob W. LaRue's heirs to Lucinda L. LaRue, 213 acres one and a half miles south of Elizabethtown, \$1,015.

Jacob W. LaRue's heirs to Lucinda L. LaRue, house and lot in Elizabethtown, on Public Square, \$500.

James B. and Lucinda L. LaRue to Hugh M. Middleton, house and lot in Elizabethtown, on Public Square, \$1,409.

Dan C. Viers and wife to Jno. D. Viers, &c., interest in a tract of land on Cedar Creek, \$1,050.

R.G. Hays to the heirs of John Edlin, interest in a tract of land on Valley Creek, supposed to contain 140 acres, \$75.

Sam'l S. Brawner to Jno T. Brawner, undivided ninth interest in 100 acres, \$75. Bluford G. Brawner to John A. Raine, two undivided interests in 100 acres, \$150.

Nathan Neighbors to Wm. B. Cunduff house and lot in East View, \$70.

V.A. Bird, Wm. Bird, and Elza Monim to Thomas O'Mara, 38 acres, 2 rods and 8 poles, \$1,156.50.

Books For Sale

By The Society

HISTORY OF ELIZABETHTOWN by Samuel Haycraft, Jr. Written in 1869 by the County Clerk, it is interesting and informative. Hardcover. 256pp. \$12.95

WHO WAS WHO IN HARDIN COUNTY This is a compilation of 170 biographical sketches written by descendants of the subjects. Great genealogical source! Soft bound \$12.95.

CHRONICLES OF HARDIN COUNTY by Mrs. T.D. Winstead. Chronological listing of noteworthy dates and events in Hardin County 1776-1974. Hardcover \$5.00

All book orders should be sent to Hardin County Historical Society, P.O. Box 381, Elizabethtown, Ky. 42702

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stacking over after many months

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