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# Bits and Pieces

of Hardin County History

A PUBLICATION OF HARDIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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MARY JO JONES, EDITOR

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## THE PILGRIM HOLINESS CHURCH



Pilgrim Holiness Church, Thanksgiving Day, ca. 1938

(Photo courtesy Mrs. Eugene Yates)

In the summer of 1929, while praying, Rev. and Mrs. C. C. Brown of Kingswood, Kentucky, felt led to start a home mission work in Elizabethtown. Services were first held in September, 1929 in a tent and later in a store-front which also served as the pastors' living quarters. It was known as the Gospel Mission.

Because of the Browns' ill health, Rev. and Mrs. L. S. Houston became pastors in March, 1930. An all-night prayer vigil in the spring of 1931 sensed God's leading to the building of a church. A lot was acquired on South Mulberry Street (now Cardin Street), between College Street and Valley Creek. The lot, seventy-five feet in width, on the

east side of the street, extended from Mulberry to South Main Street. Plans for a building were drawn by W. C. Probus.

With only \$56.20 in the treasury, the men of the church started digging the basement. The first shovelful of dirt were taken by the pastor and Rev. R. W. Wolfe, district superintendent. Elizabethtown businesses were closed for thirty minutes during a march to the excavation service.

Lumber on the stump was given for the building of the church. The pastor and sixteen other men of the church sawed the timber in the woods and hauled it to the lot.

The church was completed and the first service in the new building was held January 18, 1933. It was organized as the Pilgrim Holiness Church the following July with nine charter members. Roy and Carrie Knepper, Rev. and Mrs. C. C. Brown, Susan Aubrey and Mrs. Lillie Probus

are believed to have been among the charter members.

During those years of the Great Depression of the 1930's, more than five thousand adults and children were fed and/or given a place to sleep. Pictured above is the group attending Thanksgiving dinner served at the church by the members for children, widows, and the elderly.

Other ministers serving the South Mulberry church included Rev. and Mrs. H. H. Bolender, Rev. and Mrs. Charles Oden, Rev. and Mrs. Ralph Tromble and Rev. and Mrs. F. M. Singleton.

Rev. and Mrs. R. L. Goodman became pastors in 1955. It was during their pastorate that the North Main Street lot was purchased, and the new building constructed. The dedication service was held September 6, 1959. In 1968 the Pilgrim Holiness and Wesleyan Methodist churches merged and became The Wesleyan Church.

(From information furnished by Margaret Glendenning, wife of the pastor of The Wesleyan Church in Elizabethtown, May 2001.)

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## WEST POINT IN 1879

A gazetteer for the entire state of Kentucky was published in 1879 and included an entry for almost every community in the state at that time. The entry for the town of West Point follows:

West Point is in Hardin County, on the Ohio River; also on the P. & E. R. R., 20 miles from Louisville. It contains one church, a public and private school, and about 200 people. Southern Express. mail. S. H. Jenkins, postmaster.

**Business Directory:** Fisher & Jenkins, general store; A. E. Geoghegan, physician; J. E. Geoghegan, hay dealer; Mrs. Jane Gist, hotel; H. Hartman, blacksmith; James H. Jones, physician; James W. Lansdale, station agent; Mrs. Ann E. McCoy, hotel; A. C. Shear, saloon; E. S. Sheets, magistrate.

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(Adapted from an article in *Kentucky Explorer*, March 2000.)

## THE TRIAL OF MATT WARD

One of the most celebrated trials in Kentucky history took place in Elizabethtown during the April term of the Hardin Circuit Court in 1854.

On November 2, 1853, William H. G. Butler, principal of the Louisville High School, was shot and killed by Matt Ward, son of Robert J. Ward, Sr., who was at that time regarded as the wealthiest man in Kentucky. The prominence of the two men who were engaged in the difficulty, the circumstances under which the killing occurred, and the eminence, in the legal profession, of the many lawyers who were employed to prosecute or defend, made it one of the most notable trials in the history of Kentucky.

Great excitement prevailed in the city of Louisville as a result of the tragedy, and for that reason a change of venue was granted to the defendant to the Hardin Circuit Court. Jesse W. Kincheloe of Hardinsburg, the Circuit Judge at that time, presided. Alfred Allen, also of Hardinsburg, was the Commonwealth's Attorney, and was assisted in the prosecution by R. B. Carpenter of Covington, Sylvester Harris of Elizabethtown, and T. W. Gibson of Louisville. Eighteen lawyers were employed by the defense, among whom were John J. Crittenden of Frankfort; Thomas F. Marshall of Woodford County; George A. Caldwell, Nathaniel Wolfe and T. W. Riley of Louisville; and Gov. John L. Helm, C. G. Wintersmith, J. W. Hays and R. B. Hays of Elizabethtown.

The indictment in the first count charged Matt F. Ward and his brother, R. J. Ward, Jr., with shooting, with malice aforethought, W. H. G. Butler, in the city of Louisville on the second of November 1853, which shooting caused his death on the third day of said month. The second count charged Matt F. Ward with the shooting, and R. J. Ward, Jr., with being an accessory. The defendants were lodged in the Hardin County jail and held without bail.

The trial of such notable persons caused quite a stir in Elizabethtown. It was reported in the press that several stages and hacks had arrived from

Louisville the day prior to the trial and that more were expected. All hotels were said to be filled. Members of the Ward family, as well as Mr. Crittenden, were guests in the home of Samuel Beale Thomas, Elizabethtown's only millionaire.

On April 18, 1854, the trial was called and the defendants were taken from the jail to the courthouse, accompanied by their family, some of whom were weeping audibly. Matt Ward was suffering from the effects of rheumatism and walked with a crutch.

On motion of defendants' counsel, separate trials were granted, and the prosecuting attorney elected to try Matt Ward first. In the selection of the jury, after exhausting the regular panel of twenty-four, an additional forty men were called. Twelve men acceptable to both sides were seated: Greene Walker, T. M. Yates, James Crutcher, George Stump, R. McIntire, John Young, Thomas Thurston, J. C. Chenowith, Asa Buckles, W. Eidson, Abraham Neighbors, and Richard Pierce.

It was testified that the shooting had occurred about ten o'clock in the morning at the school building in Louisville, in the presence of the whole school. Twelve of the high school boys were called as witnesses for the prosecution, and they testified substantially as follows:

*On the day prior to the shooting William Ward, the youngest brother of Matt Ward, who was a pupil in the school, had some chestnuts during the class, and he and a classmate by the name of Al Fisher had a disagreement about them. Mr. Butler spoke to them about the disturbance and told them not to make so much noise. Nevertheless, William continued to talk to Fisher about the trouble. Butler spoke to them again, and after the class was finished he asked Fisher what they were talking about. Fisher told him it was in reference to some chestnuts, and he admitted that he had eaten some during school hours when he knew that it was against the rules; thereupon, Butler gave him five or six licks on the legs with a leather strap. Fisher then*

told Butler that William Ward had also eaten some chestnuts at the same time, but when Ward was asked about it, he denied it. Several of the other boys said they saw him eating the nuts, and the teacher then told William that he had evidently told a lie, and that he would have to be whipped. Butler then gave Ward about the same number of licks with the strap that he had given Fisher.

Shortly after the whipping William Ward left the schoolroom, saying that he was going to tell Matt Ward and that Matt would give Butler hell. The next morning shortly after nine o'clock, a servant of the Wards called at the school building and left word for the books of the Wards to be sent home. About ten o'clock Matt Ward, Robert J. Ward, Jr., and William Ward came into the schoolroom together; William took a seat and the other two remained standing. Matt inquired for Mr. Butler and when he came in, Matt said to him: "I have a little matter to settle with you. Which is the most to blame, the little contemptible puppy who begged chestnuts and then lied about it, or the boy who let him have them?" Butler asked Ward to go into his office and he would explain the affair, but Ward declined, saying the classroom was the place to answer the question.

Butler refused to answer without an explanation. Ward then said, "Why did you call my brother William a liar?" Butler said he was not disposed to answer the question without an explanation. Ward then said, "You are a damned liar and a damned scoundrel." He then made a motion as if striking at Butler, who sallied back a little. Butler then raised his right arm and moved toward Ward. Ward drew his hand from his pocket, presented a pistol to Butler's left breast and fired. Butler dropped immediately, exclaiming, "Oh, my wife and child! My God! I'm dead!" Matt Ward then drew another pistol, and Robert J. Ward drew a knife. Mr. Sturgus, the assistant teacher, came out of his recitation room, and Robert said, "Come on, I'm ready." Sturgus retreated to his room, and soon came out again, and Robert advanced toward him with the knife. Sturgus ran back into his room and escaped out a window.

During the conversation between Ward and Butler, Ward spoke loudly and Butler in a low tone. There was no person present except the scholars and Sturgus. The pistol seemed to stick in the wound, and Butler knocked it out after he got up. Butler stepped into Sturgus's room, and finding no one



(From the Editor's files)

An artist's sketch of the murder

there, came out and passed out of the schoolroom. After the shooting, the Wards left the schoolroom. The students accompanied Butler outside, and after walking about a block, Butler asked to lie down, whereupon the boys took him up and carried him to Col. Harney's. Dr. D. D. Thompson arrived about 10:20 AM and attended him there, and Butler expired shortly after the doctor's arrival.

Dr. D. D. Thompson, a physician, testified as to the cause of death. J. J. Gilmore, a gunsmith, testified as to having sold Matt Ward a pair of loaded pistols on the day previous to the shooting.

The Commonwealth introduced twenty-one witnesses, a great many questions were asked without any apparent object in view, and many statements were made which would not be competent under modern rules of criminal evidence. The prosecution then rested its case.

The defense introduced more than seventy witnesses, most of whom testified as to Matt Ward's character. Among them were Secretary of the Treasury James Guthrie, two members of Congress, the Mayor of Louisville, and many other men of great distinction.

Ward pleaded self-defense. Testimony was to the effect that he was physically weak and in feeble health; he suffered from rheumatism and ordinarily walked with a crutch; he was well educated, a graduate of Cambridge College; and he had traveled widely abroad and written extensively of his travels. Robert Ward, Jr. was permitted to testify to substantiate the plea of self-defense, that Butler had struck the first blow.



- 1. T. M. Yates Foreman.
- 2. J. Young
- 3. J. C. Chenoweth
- 4. B. M. Intire
- 5. C. Walker
- 6. G. Stroup

**THE WARDS' HARDIN COUNTY JURY.**

- 7. W. Eason
- 8. T. Thurston
- 9. R. Pierce
- 10. A. Washburn
- 11. A. Buelter
- 12. J. Bratcher

(From the Editor's files)

After all of the evidence had been introduced, the judge did not instruct the jury as to the law governing the case, as the presiding judge is required to do under the present law. The law was left for each lawyer who argued the case to read and comment upon and construe or misconstrue to benefit his side of the case.

The first argument for the prosecution was made by R. B. Carpenter. He was followed by Thomas F. Marshall for the defense. The sixth and seventh days of the trial were taken up by Sylvester Harris and T. W. Gibson for the prosecution and Nathaniel Wolf and John L. Helm for the defense. John J. Crittenden closed the case for the defense with an eloquent oration, dealing almost exclusively with the facts in the case. Commonwealth's Attorney Alfred Allen closed the arguments for the prosecution.

The court defined "murder" and "manslaughter" and the case was submitted to the jury at about five o'clock on Wednesday. On Thursday morning about nine o'clock they returned into court a verdict of "not guilty as charged in the indictment." This verdict rendered by the Hardin

County jury in this trial was in all probability one of the most outstanding miscarriages of justice in the annals of Kentucky courts.

When news of the verdict reached Louisville, an angry mob gathered at the courthouse there. Feelings ran high, as Butler was a respected and beloved educator. Louisvillians felt it was unfair that the Ward boys should get off free just because of the enormous expenditure of their father's wealth. However, during that period in the "pistol toting age" a man killed for honor and the aristocratic Ward family considered themselves honorable.

The mob marched up to the Ward mansion and threw rocks through the windows, then burned the effigies of Matt and Robert, Jr. The effigies were erected so close to the house that the mansion caught on fire and the firemen had difficulty in making their way through the rioters to save the house. After this terrible night the Ward family quietly slipped out of Louisville and went to New Orleans to live until the emotions of the citizenry of Louisville had subsided. Then they came back to their home, but the family never shone splendidly again. The fortunes of the Ward family declined. Col. Ward never had the

business success he had formerly enjoyed, so the family slowly sank into virtual poverty and lost the esteem and prestige it once enjoyed. In summing up the effects of the tragedy, it might be said that the gun that killed Butler also killed the Ward family financially and socially.

In addition, the presidential aspirations of John J. Crittenden apparently were dashed by his participation in this trial. He had been elected to the United States Senate just three months prior, and it was widely speculated that he would be the next President of the United States. However, following the trial, his popularity was at its lowest ebb. He was denounced by the press both within and without the state. Newspapers in Boston, Pittsburgh, Detroit and Cincinnati were especially critical. Meetings were held throughout Kentucky denouncing the verdict and demanding Crittenden's resignation from his recently-won Senate seat.

Charges that the jury had been "bought off" were heard both in Elizabethtown and in Louisville. Later events indicated that this accusation was probably well founded. In July, 1854, the Hardin Circuit Court grand jury indicted McIntire, Chenowith, Eidson and Yates, four members of the jury, on the charge of perjury. However, on December 1 the trial of Yates resulted in his acquittal, and the indictments against the other jurors were then dismissed.

M. J. J.

(Sources: Files of *Louisville Journal*, *Daily Democrat*, and *Daily Courier*, Louisville newspapers, April, 1854; L. F. Johnson, *Famous Kentucky Tragedies and Trials*, Lexington, 1972, pp. 163-179; Cole, *The Trial of Matt F. Ward for the Murder of Prof. W. H. G. Butler*, Louisville, 1854; Kirwan, *John J. Crittenden: The Struggle for the Union*, pp. 285-287; Collins, *History of Kentucky*, Vol. I, pp. 72 & 74; Hardin Circuit Court Order Book, 1854.)

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## APPOINTMENT OF GLENDALE POSTMASTER

(*The Elizabethtown News*, Aug. 22, 1919)

Much interest is felt in Glendale and vicinity in the appointment of a postmaster at Glendale, which is expected to be made within a short time, and speculation is rife as to whom the favored one will be. Following the resignation of Postmaster Bowen Bell a few months ago, a civil service examination was held in Elizabethtown to fill the eligible lists for the appointment of his successor. Three persons took the examination and they have received notices from the Postoffice Department of the grades which they made. The contest seems to have settled down to an issue between Mr. Russell Stuart and Miss Nancy Craig, who are among the best known young people of the Glendale vicinity and who are incidentally first cousins. It is understood that friends of both contenders are making strong appeals for their appointment and a decision in the matter may be expected before many days. Glendale is a town which has not been without its factional differences in politics for a number of years and the leading applicants for appointment as postmaster each numbers some of the most influential Democrats of the community as their staunch supporters.

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## TWO TOWNS THAT NEVER WERE

In the years following the Revolutionary War, settlers flocked to the new lands west of the mountains. Land speculators rushed to take up vast tracts with the idea of making fortunes. One scheme was the laying out of Utopian cities and populating them with settlers from across the Atlantic. Two such communities were located in 1794 in territory which at that time was believed to be Nelson County, Kentucky, but which, in actuality, had become Hardin County in 1793.

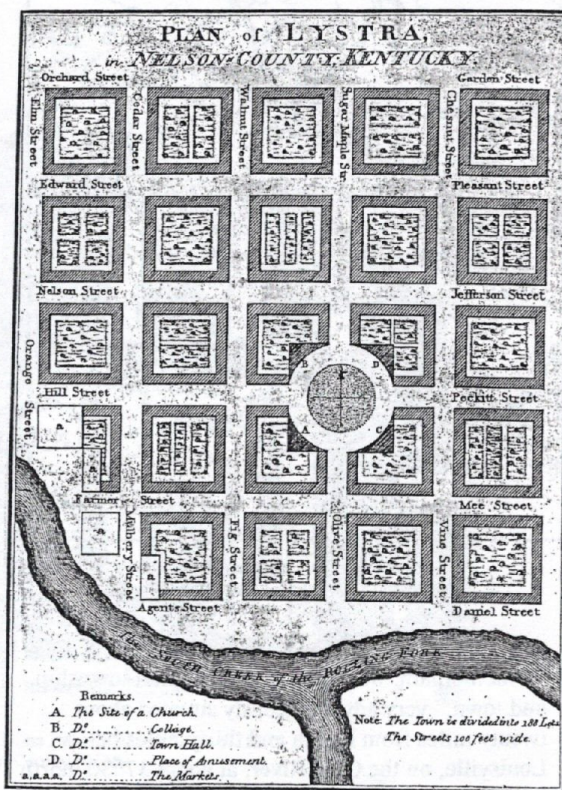
The communities were laid out on "very eligible" plans, combining "everything necessary for utility and ornament," according to William Winterbotham, the chief publicist. It appears likely that he may well have had an interest in the venture to promote the Kentucky towns as his description of the state as a place for settlement was very appealing, and the only town maps appearing in his four-volume publication of 1796 were those of proposed Kentucky cities.

The two towns in this vicinity were LYSTRA, located on a creek south of the Rolling Fork, and OHIOPIOMINGO, on the Ohio River about twenty miles from Lystra and thirty miles below Louisville.

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LYSTRA was proposed to contain 15,000 acres, at about 37° 15' north latitude and 85° 30' longitude west from London. It was laid out in 188 lots, with streets 100 feet wide. The streets, angles, circus and shore of the creek were to be free for public use. One lot was to be provided free of charge each to the first schoolmaster, the president of a college, the first member of Congress from Nelson County, the first senator, the first judge, the minister of the first church, and the person erecting the first hotel. Other lots were set aside for merchants and market places. The houses were to be "built regularly," the set-back line on the north-south streets being 25 feet, and on the east-west streets, on the street line.

The objective of the venture, of course, was to make money for the shareholders. The plan for



Plan of Lystra, Kentucky, 1796  
(Winterbotham, *View of the United States*)

development of the town was based upon 150 shares, for each of which a certificate was to be issued on a stamped parchment, containing a receipt for the investment, which at that time was twenty pounds, and conveying the title to the subscriber and his heirs.

Fourteen lots were to be gratis to settlers; following that, they were to be sold, fourteen per year, from 1794 to 1804, at gradually increasing prices. Rules were provided for the disposition to the subscribers of any lots remaining unsold in the year 1804. Agent for the sale was the American Agency Office, Threadneedle Street, London.

Lystra as a town never came into being.

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From Russell's 1794 Map of Kentucky  
(Note that Otter Creek and Doe Run are reversed.)

OHIOMPIOMINGO, according to Winterbotham, was to be a "most capital township and town," very advantageously situated about twenty miles from Lystra and thirty miles below Louisville, on the Ohio River, at about 37°30' north latitude. It was to contain about 100,000 acres of prime land and was named in honor of Piomingo, one of the Indian chiefs who was greatly beloved, not only by the Indian tribes, but also by the whites. A statue of the chief, dressed as an Indian warrior, in the attitude of delivering an oration in favor of Liberty, was to be carved from Coade's artificial stone, at a cost of 150 pounds, and erected in a principal part of the town.

The town was projected to contain a thousand houses, forty-three streets, a circus and several embellished capital squares. Each settler was to be entitled to one town lot, 100 by 300 feet, a field of five acres and another of twenty acres, and a farm of 500 acres on a lease of 999 years at a modest rental after three years.

Plans included a college for the education not only of youth of the town, but also for such

Indian children as might desire to attend. Courses of study were to include principles of philanthropy, moral rectitude and social order, together with such branches of science as might be appropriate. Fifteen hundred acres of land was set aside for this institution.

Rival land claims and a lack of money caused the abandonment of this endeavor before the town was commenced.

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EDITOR'S COMMENT: I have made a diligent effort to determine the locations for these two proposed towns. It is well established that Ohiopiomingo was to be on the Ohio River, at or very near the present site of Otter Creek Park.

However, the location of Lystra as described by Winterbotham as being at 37°15' north latitude and 85°30' longitude west from London, twenty miles from Ohiopiomingo, on a south creek of the Rolling Fork is inconsistent. Twenty miles from Ohiopiomingo on the Rolling Fork places the community between the present towns of Lebanon Junction and Colesburg. The stated coordinates describe an area near of Greensburg, some 50 miles from Ohiopiomingo. Collins, in his *History of Kentucky* published in 1874 locates Lystra between Salt Lick and Otter creeks in present-day Larue County, near the town of Gleanings, about 35 miles from Ohiopiomingo. Some writers state that land was acquired, but in a search of the records at the Nelson County Clerk's office I could not locate any such deeds.

My opinion is that the location of the proposed town of Lystra was somewhere in the area of Youngers Creek, in Hardin County. That region does not match any of the criteria exactly, but is near enough to all of them to merit consideration. I invite your comments. M.J.J.

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Sources: William Winterbotham, *View of the United States*, 1796; Lewis Collins, *History of Kentucky*, vol. II, 1874; Robert D. Arbuckle, "Ohiopiomingo: The Mythical Kentucky Settlement that was not a Myth," *Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*, vol. 70, no. 4; Mariam S. Houchens, "Three Kentucky Towns that Never Were," *The Filson Club History Quarterly*, vol. 40, no. 1; John Reys, *Making of Urban America*, 1965; *Kentucky Encyclopedia*, 1992.

## The Union National Bank



The Union National Bank Building, 101 E. Dixie Ave., Elizabethtown, ca. 1938  
(Photo Courtesy Hardin County PVA)

The Union Bank & Trust Co. of Elizabethtown obtained its charter in the fall of 1909, and opened its doors for business January 3, 1910 in the Woelpert building on East Dixie Avenue. It was organized by O. T. Trent of Louisville, who had banking experience in several Kentucky towns before coming to Elizabethtown.

James M. Rihn, many years a popular and respected merchant of Elizabethtown, was its first president. George M. Rider, then of Glendale, was vice president, and Mr. Trent was cashier. The first board of directors comprised the three officers, as well as Christy Bush, C. L. Crawford, W. R. Gaddie and A. A. Pearl. Its capital stock was \$50,000, and this was never changed during its corporate existence.

In 1917 the bank acquired the old Foerg corner on the Public Square from the Carter Realty Co., which was a holding company of the First

National Bank, and built a substantial banking home on it, which it occupied upon completion. [NOTE: *This building is at the corner of the Public Square and East Dixie Avenue, and is now occupied by the Reesor Auction Company.*] Upstairs offices are rented to business and professional people, and it also has a downstairs room on the Public Square, which has for some time been tenanted by the Day-Hays Insurance Agency.

John A. Gardner entered the bank at its opening, and remained with it throughout. He was assistant cashier under Mr. Trent, and later under C. M. Vertrees, who acquired Mr. Trent's interests in 1919. Mr. Vertrees had previously been the active head of the Cecilian Bank.

When Mr. Trent sold out he went to Cynthiana, and established the Citizens Bank, which he conducted for several years. He is now cashier of the Citizens Bank of Somerset.

Oscar Fryrear was a clerk in the Union Bank at its opening and remained with it for some time afterwards.

Mr. Rihn, who died in 1919, was succeeded as president by D. M. Hall, now of Williamstown, Ky., and Mr. Hall's place was taken by Col. H. L. Igleheart, of this city, who remained as president until the bank was absorbed. Mr. Igleheart is an auctioneer of national reputation, and also operates a farm near Elizabethtown.

When Mr. Vertrees retired as cashier, he was succeeded by Mr. Gardner.

The bank, which was organized as a State institution, under the name of the Union Bank & Trust Co., was nationalized January 1, 1927, and its name was changed to the Union National Bank.

By a deal which was completed February 24, 1932, it was taken over by the First-Hardin National Bank, which acquired its assets and assumed its liabilities.

When it was taken over its officers were: H. L. Igleheart, president; J. A. Gardner, cashier; L. P. Wiseman and Mrs. Conley Owen, assistant cashiers;

and Mrs. Gilbert Bethel, bookkeeper. Directors were Mr. Igleheart, T. A. Hinton, H. E. McCullum, O. H. Walker, W. H. Wiseman, J. W. Williams, S. P. Peake, H. L. James, Jr., and M. A. Cooper.

Of the charter directors of the bank, formed less than twenty-five years ago, only one, A. A. Pearl, continues as a resident of Hardin County. Three of the directors, James M. Rihn, C. L. Crawford and Christy Bush, are deceased. W. R. Gaddie resides near Bonnieville, and George M. Rider resides at Frankfort. Mr. Trent, as stated above, is cashier of a bank at Somerset.

When it was absorbed, the Union National Bank had deposits approximating \$250,000.

The brief space between January 3, 1910, when the Union Bank & Trust Co. was opened, to July 1, 1911, when the First National and the Hardin National banks were merged, provided the only time in Elizabethtown's history when the town had three banking institutions.

M. J. J.

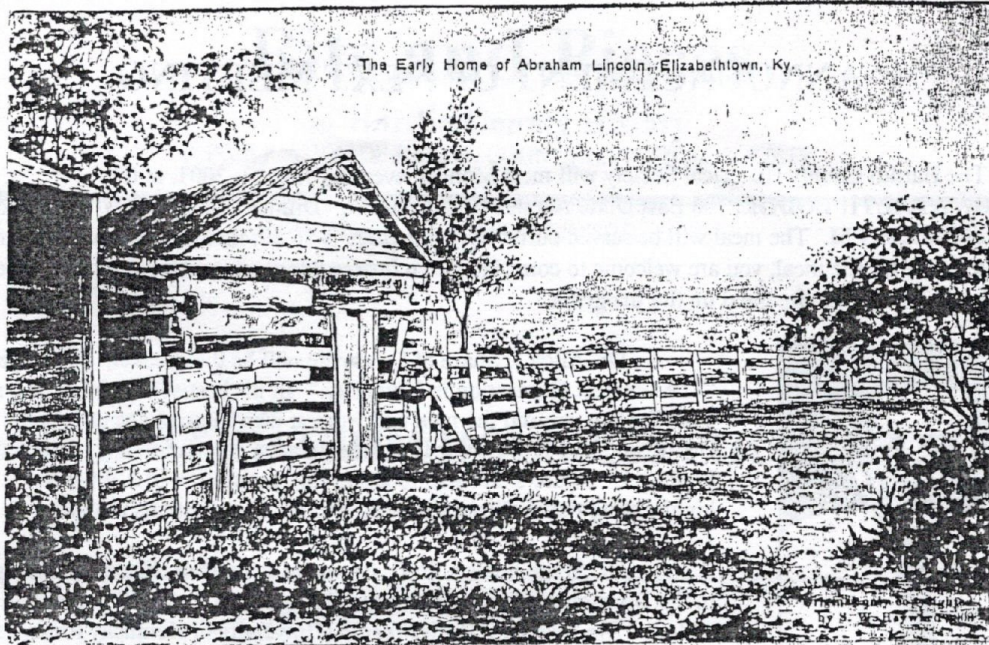
(Source: *The Elizabethtown News*, April 18, 1933)

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## HARDIN COUNTY IN THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

Hardin County has 83 men in Uncle Sam's army to lick the Spaniards. The most prominent of these are Maj. James M. Lancaster, commanding the First brigade of the United States light artillery, now before Santiago de Cuba; Charles and Eugene Carter, in Company H, Fourth infantry; and Bethel Kinkead, Company F, Second United States infantry; in the Kentucky volunteers, Fletcher Irwin, Sam Bush and Charlie Bell are in Company G, at Chickamauga; Kennedy Warren and Will Bush are with the regulars at Camp Merritt, in California, along with John Martin who went there with the Second Tennessee volunteers. None of these gentlemen, except Maj. Lancaster, is over 20 years of age and all of them represent the best families in this section. Those in California will go to the Philippines, if they have not already started for those islands.

(From *The Elizabethtown News*, date unknown.)



## THE LINCOLN CABIN IN ELIZABETHTOWN

(The Elizabethtown News, March 21, 1933 & January 4, 1935)

In the spring of 1882 when the editor [H. A. Sommers] came to Elizabethtown and purchased *The Elizabethtown News*, situated on the corner of what was known then as Main Cross Street and Race Alley, there was very near to it on the opposite side of Race Street a log cabin which was the Thomas Lincoln home. We were told that Lincoln lived there after he married Nancy Hanks until he moved to the cabin where Abraham Lincoln was born. Our information was received more than fifty years ago from men who were then about 75 or 80 years old.

This was a log cabin, located somewhere on Race Street, between the Pemberton horse barn and the corner now occupied by Woodard & Brown. The building at the time was occupied by a negro by the name of Whitaker, and while it looked like it had seen better days, it was at that time in very bad repair and condition. (NOTE: Race Street, so-called because of Haycraft's Mill race, is now the 100 block of Central Avenue. The cabin was located on the east side of the street.)

G. A. Carpenter, a teller in the Bank of Elizabethtown, took a photograph of the building as the Lincoln home and had postcards made from this photograph, which were the first cards of that character ever sold in Elizabethtown. A few of them are still in the hands of our people.

The store accounts of Thomas Lincoln with Blakely & Montgomery following his marriage to Nancy Hanks indicate very conclusively that he was living in Elizabethtown because of the frequency of the charges upon the books of the merchants. Sarah Lincoln, the first child born to Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks, was born in this house, and the family moved to the south fork of Nolin, or what is now Larue County, according to the records, about six months before Abraham Lincoln was born. Of course, Thomas Lincoln lived in Elizabethtown prior to his marriage to Nancy Hanks, and he also lived on Mill Creek.

The house on Race Street disappeared, either torn down or fell down, some forty or more years ago. It is a pity that this home was not preserved, as it would have been a matter of interest to all tourists concerned in the life of Abraham Lincoln and the lives of his parents, Thomas and Nancy Hanks Lincoln.

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## ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING

The Hardin County Historical Society will meet Monday evening, July 23, 2001, at the **COMMONWEALTH LODGE**, 708 East Dixie Avenue Elizabethtown. Dinner will be at 6:30 PM, followed by the program at 7:15 PM. The meal will be served buffet style; the price is \$6.50, including tax and tip. If you do not wish to come for the meal, you are welcome to come later. **To insure adequate seating, advance reservations must be made for either the meal or the program.**



Dr. Allen J. Share of Louisville will be the speaker. His subject will be "The Greatest Generation in Kentucky." In his best-selling book, journalist Tom Brokaw praised the men and women who came of age during the Great Depression and World War II as "the greatest generation any society has ever produced." Share's talk will focus on that generation in Kentucky, highlighting the challenges it faced and the contributions it made.

Dr. Share holds a Ph.D. degree in American History and is a professor in the Division of Humanities of the University of Louisville. He served as an editor of *The Kentucky Encyclopedia* (University of Kentucky Press, 1992) and other publications. His articles, essays and reviews have appeared in numerous journals and newspapers.

Call Mary Jo Jones (765-5593) or Tamara Taylor (763-1080) not later than Saturday, July 21, for dinner reservations **OR FOR SEATING FOR THE PROGRAM ONLY.**

Membership in the Society is open to all interested persons. Annual dues are \$8.00.

HARDIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
POST OFFICE BOX 381  
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