

Bits and Pieces
of Hardin County History
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Robert Beimdick, Editor

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STEPHEN RAWLINGS
AMONG EARLY HARDIN SETTLERS

By Ruth Bruner Sims

Stephen Rawlings lived in Berkley (Frederick) County, Va., near the John Van Meter family and his family was of the same wealth and influence. He was born circa 1720 and died after 1817 nearly 100 years of age.

He married Abigail Stephenson, the daughter of Richard Stephenson of Berkley County, Va., whose will was proven June 16, 1777, in Berkley County, Va., when he names his wife Jane and six children as his heirs. The will was witnessed by Joseph Hedges, Benjamin Hedges and Stephen Rawlings, Sr. Abigail was Stephen Rawlings Sr. second wife for Richard Stephenson in his will indicated her sister, Rosannah, as the wife of Stephen Rawlings so Rosannah must have died in the year 1777 and Stephen married her sister, Abigail shortly after, circa 1778 for Stephen Rawlings, Sr. and Abigail Rawlings joined the Colony of family and friends which Jacob Van Meter, Sr. was organizing to emigrate to settle in "Kentuckie".

The connection here being the marriage of his son, Edward Rawlings to Jacob Van Meter's daughter, Rebecca, and as they were coming with her father to the new country "Kentuckie" that the Boones were raving about, Stephen Rawlings and his family came with this colony and were among the first settlers who ventured into the country south of Muldragh Hill, to the Valley known as Severns Valley, in 1780 during the time of the Revolution.

(Ref.: Draper M.S.S. CC 12 pg 232 says they came on 27 flat boats led by Capt. Jacob Van Meter, Sr. and Howard L. Leckey in THE TEN MILE COUNTRY AND ITS PIONEER FAMILIES Vol. IV gives the Pioneer Van Meter, Swan and Hughes Families and their association with the Boones and George Rogers Clark.)

Stephen Rawlings' other sons also came with him to the Colony. They were Aaron, Stephen Jr., Wilson L. and his daughters. Stephen Rawlings had several daughters born in Virginia and perhaps some born in Kentucky for quite a few Rawlings' marriages appear in the early records of Hardin County. (My own Aunt Nancy Tabb married a grandson of Ruth Rawlings.)

The men of this Colony were all Revolutionary Soldiers serving under George Rogers Clark in taking the Northwest Territory for Virginia, thus making what is now the central United States British instead of French.

These people knew where they were going when they started the journey down the Ohio River on 27 flat boats enroute to Kentucky (then Virginia).

(Continued p. 18.)

SOCIETY'S OFFICERS

PRESIDENT-James R. Pritchard
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BOOKS FOR SALE BY THE SOCIETY

TWO CENTURIES IN ELIZABETHTOWN AND HARDIN COUNTY, KY 1776-1976
 by Daniel E. McClure, Jr. Hardcover, illus. 850pp. \$31.25ppd.

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

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 \$12.95ppd.

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

QUERY

SMITH MILL

Does anyone have a picture of the mill which operated off the Bacon Creek Road near Glendale, Ky., owned by George Washington Smith and family? The mill was on Valley Creek. Perry Hagan, PO Box 61, Glendale, KY 42740

DO YOU REMEMBER? W.H. Marriott column Aug. 8, 1974 NEWS-ENTERPRISE

MUSICIANS-Musicians taking part regularly at church services in Elizabethtown were Mrs. J.P. Deith, organist, and Phil Watkins, violinist, at the Baptist church, and Mrs. Charles Ament, organist and J.F. Nall, cornet, at the Methodist church.

WATKINS-Granville Watkins was a leading merchant in Elizabethtown for many years and was highly esteemed. He was senior partner in the firm of Watkins and Company. Later it became the site of the Taylor Hotel. His wife was formerly Miss Ellen Doran. Their only daughter, Daisy, was married to Dr. J.C. Montgomery. Mr. Watkins was born in 1843 and died in 1912.

DUES--Dues for the Society are \$8.00 per member per year. Please remit the same to Mrs. June Thornberry, 128 N. Main St., Elizabethtown, Ky. 42701

COURT ORDER BOOK, HARDIN COUNTY, KY. 1797 (1 Aug.)

At a Court held for Hardin County on Tuesday the 1st day of August 1797

Present Stephen Rawlings George Helm and James McMahan Gent Justices

George Berry Gent produced a Commifision under the hand and Seal of his Excellency James Garrard Governor which was openly Read in Court whereupon he took the Oath of a Justice and took his Seat accordingly

Coonrod Hester took the Oath of a Constable and together with John Paul his Security Entered into and Acknowledged their bond conditioned according to Law for the faithful performance of said Office

A deed from John Hanly to John Neighfong was proved by the Oath of Joseph Arnold one of the Subscribing Witnefses thereto and was ordered to be recorded the same being proved at a former Court by the Oaths of two other Witnefses thereto

A deed from George Pashly to Joshua Harrison was proved by the Oaths of Charles Morgan Jonathan Paul & John Paul subscribing witnefses thereto and was ordered to be recorded

Ordered that Nicholas Westfall be discharged from the further payment of County Levies

On the application of Isaac Larue It is ordered that the Clerk of this Court do ifsue his Warrant directed to Charles Helm Samuel Haycraft Samuel Bush and Moses Pigg Gents appointed Commifisioners agreeably to an Act of Afsembly intituled an Act to Afscertain the boundaries of Land and for other purposes requiring them or any two of them to attend the said Isaac Larue to the Boundaries or any Special place Called for in Sundry Entries (to wit) one of six thousand two hundred and fifty acres in the name of Isaac Larue Senior on the lower side of the Rolling fork below the mouth of the beech fork Adjoining George Underwoods Entry and to Run down the River for quantity Also three thousand Eight hundred thirty five and a half acres adjoining a former Entry on a Grove in the Barrens about Ten miles from the blue ball on the trace to Hardins 5000 acres Isaac Larue to Join John Mays Entry on the big lick on otter Creek on all vacant side Also five thousand acres in the name of James Larue on the Barren Spring Run Adjoining Joseph Helm's one thousand acre Entry on Every vacant side and Joseph Morton below an said Run Also Eight thousand acres to begin on the head of Sandy Creek a South branch of Nolin to run down said Creek to Nolin and down Nolin to a Parallel to with the first line will include the Quantity Also one thousand acres in the name of John Larue about Eight or nine Miles below Severns Vally Beginning at the mouth of Sandy Creek runing up Nolin one Mile and up Sandy Creek one Mile Thence East and north for quantity Also six thousand acres on the Ohio opposite the black oak grovewhere John Perr's land is Entered Beginning on the river bank & runing up the same as far as the land is vacant and fit for cultivation or till the Warrant is Satisfied Thence out at right angles from the General Course of the river for quantity then and there to take on Oath the Depositions of Such persons as shall be brought forward by the parties to prove the speciality of said Entries and to do Such other thing or things as by the said recited Act may be deemed necefsary

On the motion of Jacob Vanmatre who together with John Paul his Security entered into bond as the law directs Licence is granted him for keeping an ordinary at his house for the Term of one year next ensuing this date and from then until the next Court to be held for said County

Ordered that Coonrod Walters be exempted from being overseer of the Road leading from the Curl Lick to Mr Hodgin's old Mill and that William Eaglin be appointed in his room and that all the Tithables that Afsisted Mark Marshall on the Youngers Creek Road to wit those on the waters of the Rolling fork from Isaac Goodins up to Barnets old station do afsist him in Clearing & keeping said Road in repair

Ordered that George Berry George Helm and Samuel Haycraft do stake _____ for the publick jail

Ordered that Court be adjourned till Court in Course
Step Rawlings

ELIZABETHTOWN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES 1819, 1820

At a meeting of the board of Trustees of Elizabeth Town at the house of Samuel Martin Esquire on the day of September 1819
Present James Crutcher James Larue Horatio G Wintersmith Samuel Martin and Jacob W Larue Gentlemen Trustees

It appearing to the satisfaction of the board that a certain Rope dancer named Welsh is to about to exhibit to the inhabitants of this town certain feats of activity and other matters which neither improve the morals or understanding of the Citizens & Only has a tendency to drain them of cash which might be better applied. It is therefore ordered that the said Welsh be taxed three dollars. Samuel martin Esq. agreed to become responsible for the tax

Ordered that the board adjourn Jas Crutcher Pres

At a meeting of the board of trustees of Elizabeth Town at the house of Samuel Martin Esquire on Monday the 29th day of May 1820
Present James Crutcher President & Horatio G Wintersmith Jacob W Larue James Larue & Samuel Martin Gentlemen Trustees

It being represented to this board that two gentlemen named Handell & Dumillieu are about to exhibit certain feats by slight of hand to the Citizens of this Town It is ordered that they pay to the Clerk of this board the sum of seven Dollars for each nights performance previous to their commencement

Ordered that the board adjourn Jas Crutcher

At a meeting of the board of Trustees of Elizabeth Town on Thursday the 1st day of June 1820 at the house of Samuel Martin Esq
Present James Crutcher President Horatio G Wintersmith Samuel Martin Jacob W Larue and James Larue Gentlemen Trustees

On motion made and seconded It is Ordered that Gabriel Wathen be appointed Collector for the Town of Elizabeth and there upon he took the oath by law It appearing to the satisfaction of the board that Handel & Dumillieu the persons named in an order of the last meeting whereby they were taxed seven Dollars for each night they exhibited in this Town have exhibited two nights without paying the Tax for either night It is therefore ordered that unless immediate payment is made to the Town Collector that he distrain

on as much of the effects of the said Handel and Dumillieu as will be sufficient to pay the sum of fourteen Dollars now due, And It is further Ordered that if immediate payment of the said sum of \$14 is made that they be no further taxes during their stay in this place

Ordered that the board adjourn Jas Crutcher

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees of Elizabeth Town on Thursday the 1st day of June 1820 at the clerk's office in said town Present James Larue Samuel Martin Horatio G Wintersmith and Jacob W Larue Gentlemen Trustees

On motion made and seconded James Larue is elected President protempore

Samuel Haycraft Jr Clerk of this board produced to the board a statement of monies received by him as also an account for expenditures & services by which it appears that there is a balance of seven Dollars and thirty five cents in his hands of all monies by him recd up to this day And it is ordered that the same remain in his hands until the further order of this board

On motion made & seconded It is ordered that the sum of four Dollars be deducted from the tax imposed on Handel & Dumilieu for two nights performance in this place & that when the balance is paid agreeable to the last order made on that subject that then they be permitted to remain as long as they chose without further tax

Ordered that the board adjourn James Larue

At a meeting of the board of trustees of Elizabeth Town on Saturday the 5th day of August 1820 at the Clerk's office

Present James Larue Samuel Martin & Jacob W Larue Gentlemen Trustees

A Deed was Acknowledged by the Trustees to Horatio G Wintersmith for Lotts Nos 36, 44, 43, & 46 being directed to do so by an order from Bleakley & Montgomery

Ordered that the board adjourn JS Larue PP

In pursuance of an act of assembly directing Elections to be held in the several county towns of this State on the first Monday in August Annually for the purpose of electing five Trustees for the said Town, I caused an election to be held at the Court house in Elizabeth Town on Monday the 7th day of August 1820 for the purpose aforesaid and caused to be elected by the qualified voters of said Town as Trustees the following persons to wit John Morris James Park Samuel Martin Robert Bleakley and William Parcels as appears by a return made to the Clerk of the Hardin Co8nty Court Given under my hand this 7th day of August 1820 Sam Haycraft Jr Clerk
Board of Trustees Elizabeth Town

TIDBIT--St. Ignatius Church, Harcourt, Ky. Bulletin August 1900

Miss Rosa Buckles, in religion, Sister Mary Anthony, of Harcourt received the Religious Habit at the Loretto Motherhouse, Nerinx, Ky.

RAWLINGS (Continued from p. 13.)

In depositions given in Hardin County Court the younger men of these families stated they had come in 1778 to "spy out the land" and had "staked out claims" to land along the Ohio Riverfront (West Point) Salt River to below what is now Brandenburg.

They wanted to settle in Severns Valley as they considered it a very beautiful site to make their homes.

As Severns had laid claim to the Valley, by reason of discovery we find in Jefferson County, Virginia Court Deed Book I pg 83 that Stephen Rawlings bought from John Severn 156 acres of E. Fork of Severns Valley Creek, waters of Green River to Rawlings Spring in a line with a 300 acre survey of Oct. 7, 1780, O.R. Oct. 5, 1784 Book I pg 85 and John Severns sold to Edward Rawlings 150 acres. This 150 acres was part of a 300 acre survey June 17, 1781 on Treasury Warrant to Severns by Simon Truplett on E. Fork of Severns Valley Creek waters to Goose (Green?) River, 230 Poles above Rawlings Spring dated Oct. 5, 1784 O.R. Oct. 7, 1784--the original taken out of the office by Edward Rawlings--Jefferson County Book I pg 86.

Also, John Severns to Jacob Van Meter Sr. of Jefferson County, Virginia, 300 acres on Severns Valley Creek west side of Main Creek dated Oct. 4, 1784 O.R. Oct. 5, 1784. Original taken out by Aaron Rawlings, also a son of Stephen Rawlings, Sr.

This shows that Stephen and Edward Rawlings and Jacob Van Meter, Sr. bought from Severns, who claimed ownership of the Valley by reason of discovery, the land they wished to build homes on, as some settlers, like Boone, had lost their staked out claims, so they wanted to be sure they possessed deeds to their claims and would not be depossessed sic.

These deeds are given by Dr. Jillson in his Book of Deeds and are recorded in the Kentucky Secretary of State's Office, Frankfort, Kentucky. on page 113. Jillson gives Stephen Rawlings 400 acres on Valley Creek and 400 acres on Severns Valley Creek also an acreage for Stephen Rawlings, Jr.

So we see how carefully the Rawlings and Jacob Van Meter, Sr. families planned for permanent homes in Severns Valley.

When the territory was cut off from Virginia and called Kentucky, the Valley fell into the territory allotted Nelson County and we find both Stephen Rawlings, Sr. and Jacob Van Meter, Sr. listed in Nelson County Minute Book A as Gentlemen Justices and on pages 89, 114, 142, 145 Stephen Rawlings listed for jury duty and Abigail Rawlings, his wife, mentioned as a witness for court trial on page 83, also Aaron Rawlings on page 84. On page 145 Stephen Rawlings and John Vertrees were made magistrates and served on Grand Jury duty and John Vertrees made a Captain of Militia, and Stephen Rawlings Gentleman Justice 1788.

When Hardin County was taken off Nelson County, Stephen Rawlings was among those of major importance in the early life of Elizabethtown and Hardin County. He was an educated man and his signature appears on many pages of Hardin County Court Records from the very beginning. The records show he was prominent in the selection of Elizabethtown as the county seat of the new Hardin County. On page 11 Hardin County Court Order Book A states "present to act on Assembly a majority of magistrates, Stephen Rawlings being one, were of the opinion that the most convenient place for erecting the Court House and Jail for the County of Hardin was in Severns

Valley on land belonging to Andrew Hynes and layed off by him for that purpose and it is ordered that the said building be erected at foresaid place.

He was one of those designated to lay out the plat for the city of Elizabethtown for homes and business houses.

On Dec. 19, 1786 by an act of the Legislature of Kentucky, a law was passed directing that county courts be authorized to establish towns on application of land owners furnishing plans and giving bond and providing that upon the establishment of such towns the title to the lots should be vested in town trustees who should convey the lots in "fee simple" to the purchasers. Stephen Rawlings was named one of the first trustees of the City of Elizabethtown for that purpose and Hardin County Court Order Book page 13 states, "on motion of Stephen Rawlings, Sr. it is ordered that Thomas Helm, Stephen Rawlings, Samuel Haycraft and John Vertrees or any three of them being first sworn before a Justice of the Peace for that purpose do view and lay off a lot for the building of a courthouse and report at the next Court. So he was court appointed to help select the site for the Court House building.

Also at the July Term of Court 1797 which established the town of Elizabethtown, Stephen Rawlings was given a contract to repair the Court House and erect "stocks" (whipping post) at £24 and to build a new jail at £150, the work to be completed by the first day of January next. (This seems to indicate some legal business was conducted at Elizabethtown before Hardin County was officially taken from Nelson County.)

Stephen Rawlings was appointed by the Court to lay out roads in Hardin County. On page three, Minute Book A gives the location of his plantation and he was appointed to lay out roads to Hodgens Mill and to Pairpont Mill and other roads which ran from Elizabethtown to Van Meter's place and then roads east toward Bardstown, and many roads connecting Elizabethtown to various settlements in the county.

Stephen Rawlings stood as Surety for Samuel Haycraft when he was sheriff of Hardin County and Rawling's son Edward was deputy sheriff.

Then in 1794 he was Surety for his son, Edward Rawlings as high sheriff of Hardin County. Edward died while serving as sheriff and on Hardin County Order Book A, May 2, 1794, Edward Rawlings, Jr. produced a commission under hand and Seal of His Excellency James Garrard, Governor of Kentucky, appointing him sheriff in the stead of his father who had died in office. His grandfather, Stephen Rawlings, Sr., John Vertrees, and Samuel Haycraft were his Surety.

On Court Order Book A page 89 in 1796 appointed to appraise the estate of Edward Rawlings, Sr. were his father Stephen Rawlings Sr., Josiah Hart, Samuel Haycraft, and Andrew Fairleigh. Rebeckah, wife of the late sheriff of Hardin County was made Executor of his estate and Stephen Rawlings, Sr., his father, was security for her as executor of the estate.

In 1799, March term of Court, on page 181, Stephen Rawlings, George Berry, Gentlemen, do settle with George Helm, late Sheriff and make report which sounds as if Rawlings and Berry were Surety for Helm when he was sheriff. Same session of court, Rawlings and Berry are appointed to superintend the next election and Samuel Haycraft appointed Clerk of same.

(To be concluded in next issue.)

KENTUCKY HISTORICAL SOCIETY FILES, FRANKFORT, KY.
 ABSTRACTS OF PENSION PAPERS OF SOLDIERS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR,
 WAR OF 1812, & INDIAN WARS WHO SETTLED IN BULLITT CO., KY.
 Compiler Annie Walker Burns

SECTION 21. HENRY FIELD
 SUKY OR SUCKY FIELD PENSION NO. W 8811 VIRGINIA

May 12, 1818 in Bullitt Co., Ky. the said pensioner appeared in open court and gave the following affidavit: that he was enlisted in the fall of the year 1775 in Virginia, to serve for a tour of one year, under command of Capt. John Green, and in the fall of 1776 left the army.

At the time of this application the said pensioner was age 65.

The affidavit of Abraham Field was also given at the same time and place as the foregoing. The said deponent stated that the pensioner had really served as he stated from the fall of 1775 until 1776.

The affidavit of Col. Richard Taylor was also given at the same time and place as the foregoing, and the said deponent stated that the said pensioner had really served as he had stated and he also swears that he had been a lieutenant himself in the same company as said pensioner.

SECTION 22.

The affidavit of James Alexander was also given at the same time and in the same place as the foregoing. The deponent stated that at one time he had been well acquainted with the pensioner.

May 28, 1821 in Bullitt Co., Ky. the said pensioner age 70, appeared in open court and stated that he had served under Major Richard Taylor and Col. Patrick Henry and that he had been taken from the ranks by General Finney in order to carry express. He also stated that he had applied in the month of May 1818 and that his pension was No. 8743. He said that by occupation he was a farmer and that his wife was age 56. That he had four sons and 8 daughters and that one son is age 14, and is partly blind resides with him.

Feb. 22, 1839 Bullitt Co., Ky. Suky Field, the widow of the said pensioner, Henry Field, appeared in open court and stated that they married in Stafford Co., Va. Mar. 4, 1789, and that their marriage

SECTION 23 had been recorded in a Bible which at that time was in the possession of her daughter, Willow Farris.

Feb. 22, 1839 in Bullitt Co., Ky. Willow Farris appeared in Court and stated that she was the 4th child of Suky and Henry Field and that she has in her possession the family Bible in which appears the following records:

Henry Field married his 2nd wife Sucky Withers Mar. 4, 1789
 Henry Field was born Feb. 3, 1755 and died May 27, 1823
 Sukey Waller Huett Field was born Apr. 4, 1790, and died July 30, 1792.
 James Withers Field was born May 29, 1791 and died Nov. 22, 1807
 Lucinda Field was born Dec. 26, 1792
 Willey Waller Field was born Mar. 17, 1794
 Nancy Field was born Dec. 25, 1795
 Jane Field born Oct. 14, 1797
 Hannah Field born Dec. 27, 1799

Henry Peyton Field born Apr. 4, 1801
 Susanna Huett Field born Apr. 11, 1803
 Malinda Field born Apr. 12, 1805
 Charles Withers Field born Dec. 16, 1807
 Sally S. Field born Jan. 20, 1811, died July 12, 1814
 Sukey Waller Withers, dau of James and Sukey Withers was born Jan. 19, 1765 and she was married Mar. 4, 1789 to Henry Field by whom she had the above named children.

SECTION 24

Charles Y. Wheeler and Malinda Field were married Apr. 12, 1832, Susan Huit Wheeler was born Feb. 26, 1833, Wm. F. Wheeler born July 22, 1835.

Suky Field, the widow of the said pensioner was on the Ky. Rolls of Pensions at the rate of \$40 per annum and her certificate of pension for that amount was issued Sept. 27, 1839 and it was then sent to H. C. Summers at Shepherdsville, Ky. She also received \$40 per annum and her certificate of pension for that amount was issued July 29, 1843 and it was then sent to N. C. Summers at Shepherdsville, Ky.

The said pensioner Henry Field was on the Ky. Rolls at the rate of \$8 per mo. to begin May 12, 1818 and his certificate for that amount was issued Feb. 10, 1819 and was sent to Hon. R. C. Anderson Jr. H.R.

THE INSANITY FILE

The Case of Mary Todd Lincoln

by Mark E. Neely, Jr. and

R. Gerald McMurtry

New Books, Fall-Winter 1986-1987, Southern Illinois University Press, P. O. Box 3697, Carbondale, Ill. 62902 November publication date \$19.95.

From the dust cover: In 1875 Robert Todd Lincoln caused his mother, Mary Todd Lincoln, to be committed to an insane asylum. Based on newly discovered manuscript materials, this book seeks to explain how and why.

In these documents--marked by Robert Todd Lincoln as the "MTL Insanity File"--exists the only definitive record of the tragic story of Mary Todd Lincoln's insanity trial. The book that results from these letters and documents addresses several areas of controversy in the life of the widow of Abraham Lincoln: the extent of her illness, the fairness of her trial, and the motives of those who had her committed for treatment. Related issues include the status of women under the law as well as the legal and medical treatment of insanity.

Speculating on the reasons for her mental condition, the authors note that Mrs. Lincoln suffered an extraordinary amount of tragedy in a relatively few years. Three of her four sons died very young, and Abraham Lincoln was assassinated. After the death of her son Willie she maintained a darkly rigorous mourning for nearly three years, prompting the president to warn her that excessive woe might force him to send her to "that large white house on the hill yonder," the government hospital for the insane.

Mrs. Lincoln also suffered anxiety about money, charting an exceptionally erratic financial course. She had spent lavishly during her husband's presidency and at his death found herself deeply in debt. She had purchased trunkfuls of drapes to hang over phantom windows, 84 pairs of kid gloves in less than a month, and \$3,200 worth of jewelry in the three months preceding Lincoln's assassination. She followed the same erratic course for the rest of her life, creating in herself a tremendous anxiety. She occasionally feared that people were trying to kill her, and in 1873 she told her doctor that an Indian spirit was removing wires from her eyes and bones from her cheeks.

Her son assembled an army of lawyers and medical experts who would swear in court that Mrs. Lincoln was insane. The jury found her insane and in need of treatment in an asylum. Whether the verdict was correct or not, the trial made Mary Lincoln desperate. Within hours of the verdict she would attempt suicide. In a few months she would contemplate murder. Since then every aspect of the trial has been criticized--from the defense attorney to the laws in force at the time. Neely and McMurtry deal with the trial, the commitment or Mary Todd Lincoln, her release, and her second trial. An appendix features letters and fragments by Mrs. Lincoln from the "Insanity File." The book is illustrated by 25 photographs.

Mark E. Neely, Jr. is editor of LINCOLN LORE and Director of the Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum in Fort Wayne, IN. He is author of THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN ENCYCLOPEDIA and coauthor of THE LINCOLN IMAGE: ABRAHAM LINCOLN AND THE POPULAR PRINT. R. Gerald McMurtry, author of several books and articles on Lincoln and former editor of LINCOLN LORE, has served as Director of the Lincoln National Life Foundation.

TIDBIT--A Trip to the Store--70 Years Ago
Contributed by Dan Lee

In days not far distant farm wives, mindful of every penny in an economy no friendlier to farmers than today's, sold eggs to buy necessities and comforts for the home.

Flora Copelin, a young farm wife near Spurrier, Hardin County, Ky. sold eggs in White Mills and other rural markets. She was typical of country women throughout Hardin County. It may not be without interest to look at a sample entry from her farm accounts for March 1915:

Eggs	21 [doz.]x 15 [cents]=	\$3.15		
Calico	.80	Sulphur	.10	\$3.61 Cost of supplies
Bleach	.36	Polish	.10	\$3.15 Credits
S. Silk	.10	Hominy	.25	\$.46 Due for supplies
Thread	.15	Shot	.10	
Soda & Bluing	.15	Potatoes	.50	
Matches	.05	Candy	.05	
Borax	.10			
Soap	.05	Total	\$3.61	
O. Sets	.60			
Seeds	.15			

CLAYSVILLE by Mrs. T.D. Winstead

(Originally printed in ELIZABETHTOWN EXAMINER 1975)

You will not find it on any map nor has it ever had sharply defined boundaries, yet for more than 150 years natives of Hardin County have known about Claysville and some of them know its location. It was Elizabethtown's first suburb.

And, however obscurely known, it had what most places in Kentucky does not--the birthplace of a governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Governor John Young Brown, son of Thomas Dudley Brown and Elizabeth Young Brown, was born June 28, 1835 in a two-story brick house that stood at what is now the northeast corner of West Dixie Avenue and Sunset Road in Claysville.

In the last decades of the 18th century, a trail that became a well traveled road, connected the small village of Elizabethtown with Thomas Helm's fort, a distance of about one and one-fourth miles. At a ford where the trail crossed Freeman Creek, a small settlement grew up and for a reason, long since lost to history, it was called Claysville. An unsupported guess would be that the name derived from the soil which was said to be a sticky red clay.

Today Claysville can be identified as roughly the area of about one-fourth mile surrounding the bridge over Freeman Creek. What is Sycamore Street at this date was the southern boundary and the northern was at the foot of Helmwood hill. The eastern edge was marked by low lying fields owned by the Helm family on which the Helmwood Shopping Center has been built. A short distance out the St. John Road was the western boundary of Claysville. All of it is now within the city limits of Elizabethtown.

Mrs. Lila Adams Dykes, herself a native of Claysville and born, she has been told in the same house and bedroom in which Governor Brown was born, remembers Claysville as it was in the early years of this century. A main north-south road dominated the area and whether you have called it the Louisville and Nashville Turnpike, Main Cross Street, the "big pike", the Lincoln-Jackson Highway, the Dixie, West Dixie Avenue or Highway 31W, you were talking about this road or street. It was the main route to the northern part of Hardin County and to Louisville.

As the road grew in importance and use it became necessary to widen it, not once, but many times and always it was broadened on the east side of the road. Traveling north, after topping the hill by the Citizens Bank the road can be seen on the map running straight as an arrow before disappearing behind the present buildings at the foot of Helmwood hill where the toll gate used to be located. The toll gate was flanked on the east by a two-room brick toll house and on the west by a two story brick house that was the stage coach rest station. Another road, with the two-room toll house on the north and a one room gray brick house on the south (this may have been a toll house for the connecting road) skirted Helmwood hill to the east. This road curved slightly to pass the entrances to the Helm family cemetery and residence then ran some distance north before joining the turnpike.

Powell's Implement Store now stands where the two room toll house and the toll gate were located. A frame cottage covers the spot where the stage coach rest station house stood. After passing through the toll gate the road climbed a steep grade over Helmwod hill. At the beginning of this century the hill was covered with towering beech trees. There was very little undergrowth and squirrels and chipmunks abounded in the woods. Several specimens of the magnificent beeches still can be seen in the area. The only houses on Helmwod hill were two small cottages at the top of the hill by the side of the turnpike. They were occupied by Negro families by the name of Whitaker. It is assumed they were descendants of the slaves owned by Washington Whitaker who was the owner of a tannery at Claysville in the early 1830's.

(To be completed in the next issue.)

HARDIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BITS & PIECES
128 NORTH MAIN STREET
ELIZABETHTOWN, KY 42701



Mrs. Martha McFadden
Rt. 7, Box 185
City 42701