
Bits and Pieces

of Hardin County History

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MARY JO JONES, EDITOR

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THE PAYNE HOME

An Elizabethtown residence, for a half century the home of Col. and Mrs. J. B. Payne and their family, was torn down in 1954 and a service station erected on the site, subsequently replaced by a branch of First Federal Savings Bank.

The house, situated at the corner of West Dixie Avenue and Poplar Drive, was an imposing three-story brick, with large rooms and high ceilings reminiscent of the period when it was built. Glass in the doors to the library and parlor was imported from Italy.

The house was built in 1872 by Samuel B. Thomas, a wealthy and outstanding figure in the life of Elizabethtown in the years immediately after the Civil War.

Mr. Thomas lived in the home now occupied by Dr. and Mrs. Damon Campbell at 337 W. Poplar St., and the Payne home was in the corner of the front yard. Thomas presented it to his daughter, Mary Lizzie Thomas Payne, and she and Col. Payne moved into it in 1874.

After the death of Col. Payne, the house was owned by A. H. Douglas, Mrs. J. P. O'Meara, S. M. Duvall, Col. H. L. Igleheart, and L. F. Brewer, who sold the property to the Pan-Am Oil Co.

A restaurant, The Stagecoach Inn, was operated in the house for a short while.

THE STORY OF ONE LINCOLN CORNER CUPBOARD

M. J. J.

Thomas Lincoln, father of the President, while a resident of Hardin County, was known to be an excellent cabinet maker; and the production of fine furniture, particularly corner cupboards, appears to have been his specialty.

The late R. Gerald McMurtry, native of Elizabethtown and widely known authority on the Lincoln family, owned a corner cupboard made by Thomas Lincoln. He related an amusing series of events which led to its acquisition.

In 1938 while in the Mill Creek section of Hardin County engaged in gathering facts for his book *The Kentucky Lincolns on Mill Creek*, McMurtry heard of a cupboard said to have been made by Lincoln. He called upon its owner, an elderly woman. She said she believed the cupboard was valuable, but she had given up all hope of selling it. She proposed to McMurtry that if he would go to Elizabethtown and buy for her the kitchen cabinet then on display in the window of the Skidmore Hardware Company on the Public Square, she would swap with him. The deal was made. McMurtry delivered the new cabinet. But when he tried to move the cupboard, it fell to pieces—all he had was a pile of cherry lumber. Later, it was restored into a beautiful piece of furniture.

The history of the cupboard as related to McMurtry was that it was part of the household goods being moved by the Lincoln family from Kentucky to Indiana in 1816. On their way, they stopped in Mill Creek to bid farewell to his mother, Bathsheba Lincoln, then a resident of that community. In fording one of the swollen streams in that area, the cupboard rolled out of the wagon. Tom Lincoln made no effort to recover it. When the flood waters subsided, John T. Cowley, a nearby resident, fished it out of the creek. He took it to his home. Later, it was sold at the Cowleys' auction sale to Mrs. Martha Viers for fifty cents. Mrs. Viers later gave it to Mrs. Amos Garner, from whom McMurtry obtained it.

Corner cupboards made by Thomas Lincoln have some unique features. He was particularly fond of an inlay pattern known as the "star and streamer." While most cabinetmakers would apply inlay to the cabinet proper, Lincoln, with only one known exception, attached the inlay strips to the cupboard facings. The corner cupboard at the Brown-Pusey House has many of the features of the Lincoln cupboards, and may, indeed, be the handiwork of the President's father.

(Sources: R. Gerald McMurtry, *My Lifelong Pursuit of Lincoln*; *Lincoln Lore* No. 1476, Feb. 1961)

THE PUBLIC SQUARE IN 1892

(*The Elizabethtown News*, August 5, 1892)

The public square in Elizabethtown belongs to Hardin county, but from its looks one would think it did not belong to any body. With the exception of a wooden culvert the Court of Claims has not spent a cent in the last ten years in keeping it in repair. On one side it is absolutely dangerous for a heavy-loaded wagon and its appearance and condition is a disgrace to the county. That the public square around the Court House where most people come and go, should be pointed out and laughed at by strangers it seems ought to be sufficient to arouse county pride. The Court of Claims meets the third Monday in this month, its duty is to make an appropriation sufficient to put the square in good condition and we believe if our business men will go before the magistrates and ask it there will be no trouble in having it done.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

To Members of the Hardin County Historical Society from Harry Lee:

Because of his government job and positions with other volunteer organizations, Jim Weise has decided to step down from the presidency of the Historical Society. As first vice president, I will be completing his term. I want to thank Jim for his contributions to the society and wish him well. I hope he and Debra will continue their association and involvement with the society.

I want to thank the directors and president Keith Johnson of First Federal Savings Bank for their donation to the museum fund. They donated the profits from *Elizabethtown and Hardin County, Kentucky, A Pictorial History*, by Guy Winstead. This amounted to \$5100. They also donated 102 copies of the book which we are selling for \$30 each. This amount will be added to the museum fund to be used for necessary expenses when we have need of money to start up the museum. This is an excellent book, and I hope you will purchase one if you don't already have a copy.

Hardin County Planning and Development Commission, headed by Chris Hunsinger, also made a donation for which we are thankful. They presented us with a grant of \$1,000 that was applied toward the cost of reprinting *A Series of Monographs Concerning the Lincolns and Hardin County, Kentucky*. This is a 1938 book by Dr. R. Gerald McMurry. It will be available for purchase at the meeting on October 25. The price is \$18.

Mayor David Willmoth, on behalf of the City of Elizabethtown gave the Society 510 copies of the *Historic Hardin County, Ky., Coloring Book*. There are 22 sketches of historic sites in Hardin County, done by artist Barbara Gaffney. This would make a nice gift for children, but it is an interesting booklet for anyone to enjoy. At the present time the price of these books is only \$1.00 each. Thanks to David and the City of Elizabethtown for this donation.

The field trip on September 12 to Bathsheba (Bersheba) Lincoln's gravesite and to the Saunders Springs Nature Preserve at Radcliff was well attended. Twenty-three people enjoyed the outing. Gary Kempf was an excellent host and leader for the group.

The Hardin County Historical Society is now a member of the Historical Confederation of Kentucky and of the Kentucky Historical Society. The annual meeting of the HCK will be held in Frankfort November 5-6. A grant-writing workshop will be conducted on December 13. If anyone is interested in attending either of these events, please contact me for more information.

The Hardin County Historical Society has been reinstated as a non-profit organization in good standing with the Secretary of State's office. We also have obtained a Kentucky sales tax exemption that we need because of our book sales. We are charging sales tax for book sales, but we are also saving a substantial amount on reprinting of books and other purchases.

Book sales are up, and we are expecting to reprint other books concerning Hardin County history in the near future. Members of the book committee are Eleanor Gamble, Mary Jo Jones, Barbara Lee, Maurice Utley, and Debra Weise.

A committee has been formed to consider a revision of the constitution. Regina Lancaster is chairman of this committee. Maurice Utley and Al Miller are serving with her. A reading of the revision will be made at the October 25 meeting and a vote will be taken at the January meeting.

Jean Davis has been asked to chair the Historical Market Committee. Additional members will be named when results of the enclosed questionnaire are known. There are several locations in the county that would qualify for a plaque designating such as historical sites. If you are interested in obtaining a plaque for your home, please contact Jean.

The Museum Committee has been meeting on a regular basis. We have talked with several people who are interested in donating items to the museum. We need a place to store items until a museum site becomes available. The museum is a few years away, but there is much to be done in preparation.

A nominating committee will be elected at the October meeting. The officers to be elected will depend upon the revision of the constitution. If you are willing to be an officer or serve on a committee, please make that known. Please fill out the questionnaire enclosed in the *Bits and Pieces* and mail or bring to the October meeting. I hope that each of you will get involved in some phase of the Historical Society.

The HCCHS is in the process of obtaining a free web site. Charlie Skees is overseeing this project. Stay tuned for a future update regarding our web address.

You may contact me by telephone at 765-5264 or E-mail at hglee@ecc-uky.campuscwix.net.

THE FIFE FUND

M. J. J.

When H. B. "Bernie" Fife died on May 15, 1955, at the age of 82, his remains lay in state at the Hardin County Courthouse, and funeral services were held in the Circuit Courtroom. His career as a public servant of Hardin County spanned almost fifty years, including magistrate, deputy sheriff, sheriff, and six terms as judge.

It was during his second term as judge that the present Hardin County courthouse on the Public Square was built--without a bond issue and without an increase in the county tax rate. This achievement personified his entire business philosophy, thriftiness, avoiding debt and pay-as-you-go. Judge Fife was never married, nor was he a member of any church, although he divided his attendance about equally between the Methodist and Baptist churches. He was a very popular elected official, dedicated to the county and its citizens.

His entire estate at the time of his death, except for small bequests to the Methodist and Baptist churches in Elizabethtown, was placed in a trust fund, designated the "Fife Fund," the income from which is to be used for the benefit of Hardin County. Specifically, his will provided that the funds received be used "to aid in the construction and/or maintenance of the public county roads and bridges of Hardin County, Kentucky; to aid in the construction and/or maintenance of a public airport, if such shall be build in Hardin County; and, if a new courthouse or jail shall be erected in said County, to aid in the construction thereof."

The corpus of the fund, at the time it was turned over to the trustee, amounted to \$270,000, and in 1957 the net income to the county was \$6,000. On June 30, 1999, the market value of the fund was \$2,572,027, and the quarterly income received by the county on July 7, 1999 was \$20,110.09. To date, more than one million dollars has been received by Hardin County from the Fife Fund.

(Sources: Interview with Margie Oliver, Hardin County Treasurer; public records of Hardin County.)

1,000 MEN VOTE IN ELIZABETHTOWN IN 1891

(*The Elizabethtown News*, Aug. 7, 1891)

Over 1,000 men voted in Elizabethtown Monday and most of them remained in town all day, yet with all this crowd and with an exciting election besides, there was not a single fight, not even a quarrel and there was absolutely no whiskey afloat. During the whole day there was not a single drunken man to be seen and in the evening there were only two or three at the outside.

We doubt if any town in the state can show such morality as this on election day.

THE HARDIN COUNTY FAIR

THE BIG HARDIN COUNTY FAIR OF 1905

(The Elizabethtown News, 1905)

Hardin County has the reputation of holding one of the very best county fairs in the State. From what we know, we believe excepting Shelbyville, the Elizabethtown Fair is the best in Kentucky. This is a year of unprecedented prosperity among all classes of people. The farmer has toiled all summer and out of the ground he is receiving a rich return for his labor. Silver dollars are clinking in many pockets where they never clinked before. This fact ought to make the attendance at our Fair next month break all former records. We believe it will. It is only to be three days this year and let everybody lay down the shovel and the hoe and take a three days' holiday. All work and no play makes Jack a very dull boy and the boys who have gone through harvest, dug the potato crop, gathered the fruit and laid by the corn ought to have a good time.

The county Fair offers a very innocent amusement. The girls, too, ought to be brought along. For the boys can have no fun without the girls. Let us all get ready for the great Hardin county holiday, where we can eat from the same dinner hamper and meet our friends from all sections. It is a great big holiday time and the few dollars it will cost you to bring all the folks all three days will not be missed and it will mix a little sweetness with the sweat of a hard summer's toil.

The County Fair has been a great farm educator. It has been more than anything else the first cause of the great improvement in our livestock. Our cattle, our horses, our sheep, our hogs compare very favorably with some of the Bluegrass counties and each season witnesses more blue ribbons carried over at these exhibitions by our home people. We will have a fruit display that can not be equalled in any county in the State. Mr. Richard Eskridge, our popular secretary, is delighted with the prospects for an unusual amount of fine stock from other parts of the State. The big money in horses in the last few years has put great life in the horse business and we can expect to see something very fine in this line. There is no other County Fair to conflict with our date and no St. Louis Exposition this year. We are looking for a record breaking crowd. Get ready and be on hand when the bell taps.

ORGANIZED IN 1883; ENDS IN 1918

The stockholders have ordered the Fair Grounds of the Hardin County Fair Company to be sold next month to wind up the business of the Company and thus passes away an institution which for thirty-four years has had much to do with the development of the livestock and agricultural interests of the county.

When it was first organized there was not a standard bred stallion in the county and hardly any thoroughbred cattle, hogs or sheep. In the first fairs there were very few Hardin county animals of any kind which took premiums, so meagre was the county of good stock. The fair developed from year to year the live stock interests until most of the premiums were taken by Hardin county breeders.

The first President of the Association was E. U. Bland and the first Secretary James A. Kinkead. For eight or ten years the fair was looked upon as the great event in the county and enormous crowds attended each annual exhibition. During the eighties and the early nineties the fairs were as good as any held in the State. At one time the association became chiefly a racing and trotting association when a great deal of money was spent on the face track and very large racing purses were hung up. During this period F. M. Joplin was the President and James A. Kinkead continued as Secretary.

(Continued on next page)

ORGANIZED IN 1883; ENDS IN 1918, Continued from preceding page

After a few years the expenses proved so heavy that it became necessary to reorganize, when the capital stock was cut down, the trotting races entirely abolished and the running faces very considerably reduced. R. L. Wintersmith was the President under this new organization for many years and Richard Eskridge Secretary. About eight years ago it was again reorganized when new money was put into it. The people, from year to year, began to get more and more fair tired until the receipts barely met the expenses. Fairs at Hodgenville, Shepherdsville, Hardinsburg and Leitchfield cut off a big attendance from these counties. Then came the State Fair at Louisville which so far overshadowed the county fair that a great many Hardin county people ceased to attend the fair at Elizabethtown and went to Louisville instead. To carry on the fair any longer here the stockholders felt was but inviting disaster, so it has been decided to sell the fair grounds. The capital stock of the present company is \$5,500, and the grounds it is expected will bring more than that amount.

The land for the fair grounds was originally bought from J. M. Polk and Mrs. Lizzie Robinson for \$100 per acre.

(The Elizabethtown News, Oct. 25, 1918)

HALF PRICE TO THE FAIR

The 3d annual Fair of the Hardin County Fair Association will be held at Elizabethtown, Ky., beginning September 11th, and continuing four days. Trotting and running races each day. The premium list has been greatly increased and is equal to any in the State. Come and see the great contest between the Hereford and Shorthorn cattle at this Fair. Excellent stalls and barns. Feed at reasonable rates. Ample hotel accommodations. The N. N. & M. V. Railroad will run trains from Louisville at half rates. The L. & N. Railroad will sell tickets during the Fair at half rates. Visitors can now visit the Fair on any railroad and return the same day. All ladies will be admitted free the first day. For catalogues and other information address

JAS. A. KINKEAD, Sec.,
Elizabethtown, Ky.

(The Elizabethtown News, Aug. 24, 1888)

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NEW BOOK

Reprints of the book, *A Series of Monographs concerning the Lincolns and Hardin County, Kentucky*, by Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry are now available from the Society.

In the mid-1930's, McMurtry wrote a series of articles which were printed in the *Hardin County Enterprise*, an Elizabethtown newspaper. This book contains 38 of those articles. These monographs are a distinct contribution to the study of Hardin County and Kentucky. From these, students of history and citizens residing in the first home of Lincoln's parents and the original county of Lincoln's birth will receive a new insight into the events, conditions and environment of Lincoln's boyhood years.

The price is \$18 plus tax; 133 pages, hard cover. These books will be offered at the October meeting of the Society or you may order by mail: P. O. Box 381, Elizabethtown. Kentucky residents add 6% sales tax. Postage \$3.20.

\$13.00 - Harpoff.
\$65.00 - L. C. W. - MacKie

The Hardin County Historical Society is in need of people who are willing to serve in different capacities. We hope that each of you will be willing to participate in some manner. It is time to elect new officers. There are other matters that need to be addressed by the society. We ask that you share with us your ideas and recommendations. Please fill out the questionnaire and return it to Hardin County Historical Society, PO Box 381, Elizabethtown, KY 42702 or bring it with you to the October meeting. We look forward to seeing you on October 25.

1. Are you willing to serve as an officer of the Historical Society? Yes _____ No _____

President _____ Vice-president _____ Secretary _____ Treasurer _____

2. Are you willing to serve on a committee? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, check which ones:

Membership _____ Program _____ Site Visitation _____

Cemetery _____ Hospitality _____ Museum _____

Book Printing & Sales _____ Historical Marker _____ Finance _____

3. Please list your other concerns, ideas, or recommendations.

NAME _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

Please complete both sides of questionnaire.

Members of the Museum Committee believe that many items of historical interest are owned by citizens of Hardin County. It is feared that many of these items are being lost, destroyed, and disposed of by families who do not realize the significance of these items or know of a place to store and preserve them. For that reason, members of the Historical Society are interested in providing a place where items of interest can be preserved and shared with others.

1. Would you support a Historical Museum for Hardin County?

Yes _____ No _____

2. Would you be willing to serve on a committee to plan a phase of the museum?

Yes _____ No _____

3. In which of the following areas would you be willing to participate?

Legal issues _____ Personnel _____

Financial planning _____ Collection policy _____

Physical facilities _____ Public relations _____

4. Would you be willing to volunteer in the museum?

Yes _____ No _____

5. Do you have items which you would be willing to donate to a museum?

Furniture _____ Books/papers _____ Cloth items _____

Other _____

6. Do you believe this community would support a historical museum?

Yes _____ No _____

7. In what other ways would you be willing to help a historical museum become a reality?

8. What ideas or recommendations do you have for starting a historical museum?

NAME _____
PHONE NUMBER _____
Please complete both sides of questionnaire.

100 YEARS AGO:

THE FISCAL COURT

(The Elizabethtown News, Oct. 20, 1899)

The October term of the Hardin Fiscal Court was concluded Tuesday and was one of the most important sessions of the court ever held. The Board of Magistrates, which is the most intelligent and progressive the county ever had, gave the closest attention to all matters of public interest and in nearly every instance acted unanimously on all matters of importance. Perhaps the most important thing that engaged the attention of the court was the proposition to work the roads of the county by taxation.

At the last meeting of the court a resolution was drawn up submitting the question in an informal way to the people as to whether they wanted to work the roads by taxation or continue the old system. (Ed. NOTE: The "old system" required each resident along a road to do his share of work to maintain his road.) A large majority voted in favor of the tax plan and acting upon this instruction of the voters the court adopted a resolution to adopt the Simms law in working the roads.

A levy was made of fifteen cents on the hundred dollars for road purposes which will amount to nearly \$8,000. The levy for county purposes was reduced from twenty cents to ten and the head tax placed at \$1.50. This only makes the tax for all purposes in the county five cents more than it has been. It was decided after reading letters from county authorities where roads are worked by taxation to elect a Road Supervisor in each Magisterial district with a compensation of \$1.50 per day while actually engaged. Each Supervisor is to give a bond of \$2,000.

The following Supervisors were then elected: First District--Lewis T. Walker; Second District--not appointed; Third District--R. L. Payne; Fourth District--Finis Creager; Fifth District--Bruce Carrico; Sixth District--W. T. Brown

The supervisors are to let on the first Monday in April by contract to the lowest and best bidder upon specifications the roads to be worked in their respective

districts, and all delinquent taxpayers will be required to work out their tax on the roads.

IN OTHER BUSINESS:

The court made an appropriation of the approaching January dividend of the Louisville & Nashville [Railroad] stock held by the county to improve the Square. This is the property of the county and is in a terrible fix. As the town pays one sixth of the entire county tax it was nothing more than right both in justice to the town and the county that this appropriation was made. H. A. Sommers, A. S. Baldwin and Judge English were appointed a committee by the court to superintend and contract for the work without compensation.

It is most likely that the square will be made of asphalt or vitrified brick and it will be a very much needed and handsome improvement. The appropriation was made by the unanimous action of the court.

An appropriation of \$900 was made to put a heater in the court house, either steam or hot air, and a committee consisting of W. C. Montgomery, Louis Faurest and Judge English were appointed to superintend it and make contract.

The salaries of the county officers were fixed as follows: County Judge, \$800; County Attorney, \$500; County Superintendent of Schools, \$800; County Superintendent of Farm, \$300.

The election of a Superintendent for the county farm was a long, drawn out contest and thirty-eight ballots were necessary to decide it. The contest narrowed down to Thomas Morehead, James Nelson and Jacob Miller, each receiving two votes. This deadlock continued for a great many ballots when Nelson withdrew and Miller was elected.

100 YEARS AGO:

WHY ELIZABETHTOWN IS A GOOD TOWN, AND WHAT IT NEEDS!

(Louisville Post, as reprinted in *The Elizabethtown News*, Feb. 17, 1899)

Mr. R. L. Wintersmith is Mayor of Elizabethtown, and is serving his second term. The city is Democratic, and Mr. Wintersmith is a Republican but the people have not allowed politics to enter into their municipal affairs, but prefer to select the best business men to conduct their city government.

Elizabethtown under Mayor Wintersmith's administration, has made substantial progress, and before his term is out will be fully abreast with the times and all modern improvements. It has a system of waterworks that cannot be surpassed in the United States. The water supply is from a spring within a mile of the town, with a flow of several million gallons a day, enough pure spring water to furnish a city of 10,000 people if every family took water. The plant has been in operation for about three years, and is now about paying operating expenses, with very low rates to consumers. The reduction in fire insurance rates, by the waterworks, and a splendidly organized fire company, which the town has, is equal to the amount of taxes necessary to pay the water bonds.

The city just now needs more than anything else an electric light plant, and the Council is willing to entertain a proposition to grant a franchise to some company on reasonable terms to put the same in. The power to operate the same can be obtained at the waterworks plant.

Elizabethtown has grown steadily in the past few years, until its population is now something over 3,000, and there is not a vacant house in the city. There is a great demand for residence property. Elizabethtown has three railroads, the Louisville & Nashville, Illinois Central and the Elizabethtown & Hodgenville, and splendid railroad service. It is only forty-two miles from Louisville, and situated on the slope of Muldraugh's Hill, nearly 800 feet above the sea level. There is no healthier place in the State, and it is located in the finest fruit section of Kentucky. It has a splendid system of graded free schools, with a high school department, the Hardin Collegiate Institute, a branch of Central University, and St. Mary's Academy.

Another advantage of this thriving little city is that it is in the county seat and trading center of one of the best counties in the State. Hardin county in the past few years has taken rank as the first county in the State in public school interest. It has \$30,000 invested in a public school fund. It has recently spent \$100,000 in improvements and in building roads. It has set aside a fund large enough to put it on a cash basis, and has \$80,000 in L.&N. Stock, and does not owe a dollar and with a tax rate of only 20 cents on the hundred dollars. From a financial standpoint it is a model county.

It has more miles of railroad than any county in the State. Last year it shipped 20,000 head of cattle, and ranks with Bourbon and Clark in this respect. It is one of the best wheat counties, a yield of 30 bushels to the acre being no uncommon thing. These advantages of the county make themselves felt or rather reflected, in the town, and as a result in fifteen years there has not been a mercantile failure of any size.

Elizabethtown discovered last year within a stone's throw of the corporate limits a magnificent mineral well. This water has been analyzed by Dr. Kastenbine, of Louisville, and pronounced by him very fine for the stomach and bowels. It has effected some wonderful cures and should make the town a very fine health resort, especially to the people of Louisville, who are so close as to be able to transact their business and use the water as well.

The city has two telephone exchanges--the Ohio Valley, with a hundred boxes, and a connection with all the outside world, and the Smith exchange, with about the same number of boxes in town and about five hundred in the county. A great deal of business is transacted in town by the country people over this line. It is said that Hardin county leads the State on telephones, and it is not far behind on anything else.

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SLANTS ON LIFE IN ELIZABETH TOWN IN THE EARLY PART OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

(Compiled by Marilyn Nixon from early records in Possession of Dr. J. C. Montgomery)

Nothing very much happened then--just a little horse racing and shooting through the streets. There was nowhere to go--only to the marvelous exhibitions of touring jugglers and small-time showmen. It was a quiet little town, but it was destined to make a big noise.

On a Wednesday in 1797, October the fourth to be exact, a board of trustees held a meeting at which they decided to mark the bounds of Elizabeth Town, spelled thusly, to advertise a December sale of "lots of said Town," and to require by law shingled roofs on all the houses built therein.

The members of this board of trustees were John Vertrees, Stephen Rawlings, Benjamin Helm, James Crutcher, Armistead Churchill, and Isaac Morrison, clerk.

Lots sold steadily, and in 1806 it was decided that each owner of real property in the town should be taxed the whole sum of fifty cents, and that if the owner was also an inhabitant he should be taxed an additional twenty-five cents "for the use of the Town."

The Courthouse figured heavily in the activity of Elizabeth Town, and life centered around the public square. Later on a Market House caught the interest of the people, business to be done there on Wednesdays and Saturdays under supervision of a Market Master appointed by the Board and paid a total of \$20 a year, subject to 25 cents' deduction for every day that he "neglected his duties."

Lewis Quigley was appointed the first Market Master in 1821 and held the office for many years. It was his business to weigh products on scales, to help the customers in their purchases, and, among other things, to fine anyone bringing "spiritous liquors" into the Market.

Fines were imposed for violations of an increasing number of laws. Regulations forbidding horse racing and shooting in the streets were constantly in need of enforcement. Dead animals were to be removed at least three hundred yards from

the town line by the lot owners nearest to where the animals had fallen. Horses were not to be unloosed and fed in the public square, and inasmuch as "certain persons, minors, apprentices and slaves are in the habit of assembling in the Seminary lot on Sabbath day and there indulging in Certain Amusements in a riotous and disorderly manner," such action was prohibited and subject to fine.

Whether or not the people made their own amusements, there was always a variety of entertainment offered by traveling performers, who were taxed a certain amount for each show. For instance, records of the trustees read: "It appearing to be satisfaction of the board that a certain Rope dancer named Welsh is 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 and 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."

Wax figure showings did a good business in Elizabeth Town; Natural Curiosities and Menageries attracted crowds. There were exhibitors of "Lyons," literary pigs, Osage Indians, puppets, circuses, and "certain strange feats by slight [sic] of hand." Benedict and Co. Thrilled the citizens with a "Marvellous Exhibition of the Arts and Sciences and Mechanical experiments in the Science of Sticks."

First census counts were taken by William Montgomery in 1811, but only free males and lot owners were listed. Twenty years later valuation was assessed on real estate and slaves, and a one cent tax laid on each hundred dollars, a rate which was increased to five cents at the beginning of the roaring forties.

Improvements were made through the years by order of the town trustees who included, at one time or another, Daniel Waide, Samuel Stevenson, Gabriel Wathen, Sam Hayacraft, William Parcels, Allen Singletom, James Crutcher, William Dunavan, William English, and Lewis Helm, to list a few.

In the early twenties, Timothy Owen was contracted to turnpike the Main Cross street from the public square to the Town line. A number of hands were "employed to clean out and repair Streets, Allies, and the Public Square." Stalls in the Market House were rented to enterprising merchants.

By 1835 the *terra firma* was less *firma* and more *terra*; a scare had developed among the townspeople. Records report: "Whereas the Trustees have been petitioned by a large number of the Citizens of this town praying for some measures to be adopted for the safety of the Town in case of an insurrection of

the slaves . . . It is therefore ordered that all the male citizens free persons over 16 years . . . be placed in the hands of some person . . . to be Stiled [sic] the Town Sergeant whose duty it shall be to allot them off in Companies of Twelve . . . and that the night be divided into three watches."

So life was becoming more unsettled, and pre-Civil War days were fast vanishing.

(*Hardin County Enterprise*, July 20, 1943)

HELM - LEWIS WEDDING

(*The Elizabethtown News*, Oct. 6, 1899)

At noon yesterday at the residence of Mrs. Ben Hardin Helm in this city Mr. Waller Lewis, of Franklin county, and Elodie Helm, were united in marriage. The ceremony was performed by Rev. E. Wright, of the Baptist church, the pastor of the bridegroom. The beautiful marriage service of the Episcopal church was used and was most impressively said. The large parlor was handsomely decorated in white and green and was comfortably filled with relatives and intimate friends. The bride looked unusually handsome in a very lovely gown of white silk with the regulation bridal veil and carried in her hand a large bouquet of bride's roses. After the ceremony and hearty congratulations, the company sat down to a most delightful breakfast. There were a number of very beautiful and elegant bridal presents among which was an exquisite fan from Tiffany's, a present from Hon. Robert Lincoln, of Chicago, a cousin of the bride.

The bridegroom is one of the best families of Franklin county and is a most successful farmer. He is a most exemplary gentleman and has a large circle of friends.

The bride is a member of one of the most distinguished families in the State. She is a daughter of gallant Gen. Ben Hardin Helm who was killed at Chickamauga and a granddaughter of Gov. John L. Helm. She is also a niece of Abraham Lincoln. She is a woman of lovely character and disposition and Mr. Lewis is to be congratulated in winning such an excellent lady for a wife.

(ED. NOTE. Mrs. Ben Hardin Helm at that time lived in the home at 218 W. Poplar St., Elizabethtown, now owned and occupied by Mrs. J. W. Hodges.)

INVENTED AN ICE MACHINE

Big Clifty, Jan. 3, 1899.—H. A. Williams and B. W. Birkhead have just completed a small machine for the manufacture of artificial ice. This machine is the result of some two years' study and experiments of two very intelligent and ingenious workmen. We are informed by those who claim to have seen it that it is in every respect a practical machine and will weigh, complete with copper lining, galvanized steel pipes, etc., not more than one hundred pounds. It has two sets of interchangeable molds, and the ice bars will be in the shape of a brick, the largest weighing twenty-five pounds and the smallest ten pounds. It is claimed that ten cents' worth of chemicals will make 100 pounds of ice and that the process is so simple that a child can operate it. The inventors will apply for a patent and the time is not far distant when every family in the land can be kept cool at a trifling expense as the machine is practically indestructible and will be placed on the market at about twenty dollars.

(*The Elizabethtown News*, Jan. 6, 1899)

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ELIZABETHTOWN'S STANDPIPE

(*The Elizabethtown News*, Oct. 30, 1899)

The Elizabethtown stand pipe is completed and has been tested. It is now being painted on the inside and out and as soon as it dries will be turned over to the city. It is a hundred feet high and stands on an elevation of eighty feet above the business part of the town, giving a pressure of seventy-eight pounds. It will hold 150,000 gallons of water, sufficient to supply the town for more than twenty-four hours, it is thought. The Council thinks its operation will so reduce the expense of the water system as to make the water works self sustaining. In this connection we are requested to call the attention of water consumers to the fact that water should not be carelessly wasted, as a saving in water is a saving in tax. This will be especially true when the stand pipe is put in use.

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SANITARY CONDITION OF ELIZABETHTOWN

(*The Elizabethtown News*, Aug. 24, 1888)

A few days ago in conversation on the sanitary condition of Elizabethtown with a gentleman who has been a practicing physician for eighteen years, he said the healthful location of the town is all that prevents a great scourge of disease and death here for, said he, "I have been in a great many towns in Kentucky and other States and have yet to find a town anywhere else that compares to Elizabethtown for filthiness.

"He said the filthiness of the town is the talk all over the State wherever he has been; and if some one on a train, while traveling, mentioned Elizabethtown, another would speak and say don't mention Elizabethtown, for it is the filthiest town I ever saw, and there is not a good street nor a solid pavement there."

This gentleman said this is the only town of its size that he ever saw where horses were hitched right at the doors of the business houses and even at the very doors of the dwelling houses, and left standing there all day, and where hogs and other stock were left to run at large in the streets. He also said he never saw another town of the size of Elizabethtown, where there was not a board of health, and there was not something done to improve the sanitary conditions, by keeping stock of all kinds off the streets, especially in the summer time, by cleaning the streets and by scattering disinfectant.

All of the above is true, and it is a common talk among the traveling men at the hotels that this is the filthiest town, and that the streets are in the worst condition of any town they ever saw.

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ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMING ACTIVITIES

The Hardin County Historical Society will meet Monday, October 25, 1999, at the Brown-Pusey House, 128 N. Main St., Elizabethtown. Dinner will be served at 6:30 PM, followed by the program and business meeting at 7:30 PM. If you do not wish to come for dinner, you are welcome to come later.

Dinner will be catered by the Stone Hearth Restaurant.
MENU: Layered Fruit Salad; Twice-baked Roast Beef; Green Beans; Mashed Potatoes; Rolls, Butter; Tea, Coffee; Light Dessert. Price \$6.25.

The Three B's of Kentucky Politics is the subject of the program to be presented by Berry Craig of Mayfield, associate Professor of History at Paducah Community College. Craig begins by examining each of these spicy ingredients in turn. He ends by relating a tale that combines all three and brings to mind the remark about Kentucky politics being "the damnedest." After all, asks Craig, where else could a man running for governor drink too much, throw up in public, and still get elected? This program is funded in part by the Kentucky Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Call Mary Jo Jones (765-5593) NOT LATER THAN NOON, FRIDAY OCTOBER 22 for dinner reservations. If you make a reservation and do not attend, you are expected to pay for the meal.

A special meeting of the Society will be held at the Brown-Pusey House on Wednesday, December 1, 1999, at 7:00 PM. Kevin Graffagnino, Director of the Kentucky Historical Society, will present a slide program on the history of the Kentucky Historical Society and the development of the History Center in Frankfort. A surprise publication by our Society will be available for purchase at this Y2K meeting. Refreshments will be served and a door prize will be given. We hope you will attend this special meeting and bring a friend.

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HARDIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
POST OFFICE BOX 381
ELIZABETHTOWN, KY. 42702



Paul Urbahns
2887 Republic Ave.
Radcliff, KY 40160