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# Bits And Pieces

of Hardin County History

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MARY JO JONES, EDITOR

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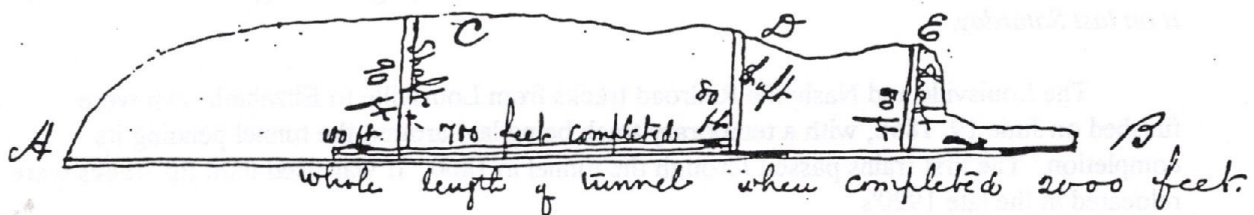
## THE RAILROAD TUNNEL ON MULDRAUGH HILL

M. J. J.

I have received a copy of a letter datelined "Helm's Station, Elizabethtown, Ky., August 5<sup>th</sup>, 1854, written by Charles K. Jones, Jr., to his parents in Savannah. One portion of the letter is of particular interest:

*Some five miles from Elizabethtown there is a tunnel through Muldraugh's Hill now in process of construction. It will when completed be two thousand feet through the solid rock and forms a part of the Louisville and Nashville Rail Road. This Road when completed will place Savannah in immediate connection with the lakes and all the West. By a reference to any R. R. Map you will see its locality and at once perceive the great advantages arising from its construction. This Tunnel we visited a few days ago.*

*Three shafts have been sunk in the hill and about seven hundred feet have already been excavated from the solid rock. I will make a rough draft of the plan of the Tunnel, and you will then see the manner in which they are made.*



*The approaches to the tunnel are nearly finished. After ascertaining at what angle the road will enter the hill, and its direction, instead of beginning at the sides and tunnelling through, shafts are sunk from the top of the hill to the level of the road, and at the bottom of each shaft, workmen are placed who excavate along the line of the road both backwards and forwards. By this method a larger number of hands can be located, and the tunnel more rapidly completed. Thus in the above draft you will see that while workmen are busy upon the approaches A and B, others are cutting the tunnel in both directions respectively at the bottom of the shafts C, D, and E.*

*The hill is composed of blue limestone and shell rock. At the base of the hill there is one of the more singular formations I have ever seen. The rocks are composed entirely of shells and the vertebrae of small sea fishes and evidently evinces the actions of water at some distant period. Some of them are completely worn away at the base and present the appearance of a series of inverted sugar loaves on a grand scale. Others seem to have been broken from their foundations with the force of the waves and to have been tossed about until worn completely round. I wish that you could have seen them for I regard this spot as invested with peculiar interest to every one and especially to the geologist. This formation was revealed by the excavation for the Rail Road. Just where it enters the Hill. Obtained some very good specimens of fossil shell fish vertebrae & which I shall preserve for you.*

*The Geological formation of Kentucky is quite a novel one to me, and very interesting. At the bottom of the deepest shaft, some ninety feet below the surface of the hill, a young Engineer, Robinson by name, and myself sang "Make me no gaudy chaplet" as a duet. The sound of our voices was echoed and prolonged by the rocks and sides of the shaft and tunnel almost indefinitely, and gathered renewed volume from each reverberation. A large stone dropt from the top, and as it struck the bottom, sounded like the discharge of a four pounder.*

*Upon Gov. Helm's farm there is a small cave which we visited last week. The mouth was however filled with water and we could not enter. Kentucky abounds with such formations....*

(The original of this letter is in the archives of the Library at Tulane University, New Orleans, LA)

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Samuel Haycraft, Elizabethtown historian, recorded in his diary under the date of Monday, July 18, 1859: *This day went on an excursion to the Tunnel, daylight having been made through it on last Saturday.*

The Louisville and Nashville Railroad tracks from Louisville to Elizabethtown were finished on June 19, 1858, with a temporary track being laid around the tunnel pending its completion. The first trains passed through the tunnel in 1860. It was used until the tracks were relocated in the late 1920's.

This tunnel is located on private property and may be visited only with the permission of the landowner.

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## COURT DAY

R.R. Thomas

Court Day was a significant event in the lives of most Kentuckians during much of the nineteenth century. This was the day that the county judge and the justices of the peace came to the county seat to do the county's business; usually, it was on one Monday of each month. Because it involved many citizens who had to be there for judicial or other business matters, many other persons having different kinds of business were attracted.

Farmers, peddlers, politicians, traders, and others of various stripes who wanted to be where the activity was showed up on Court Day. It provided excitement for some, profits for others, and consternation for the staid residents of the town. But it was always a colorful time.

It became the day upon which livestock sales were conducted. Some towns were flooded with cattle, horses, and other assorted animals. They were sold individually or at auction or traded for other animals or property. Auction sales were most often held in the town squares. The confusion and congestion became a nuisance to many. The stench and underfoot nastiness became so objectionable in some county seats that efforts were made to move livestock sales from the main streets. The merchants in the area resisted this because they wanted the crowds exposed to their businesses. Health concerns, orderliness, and sightliness, as a rule, lost to business concerns and the sales went on.

Court Day was also an occasion when horses were traded and sold and, in some areas, raced. They were the main mode of transportation and, with mules, were the chief source of farm power. It was reported by one observer that as many as five hundred men rode into Elizabethtown on horseback on Court Day. It was an opportunity for breeders to improve their product and for those in need of additional horses to obtain them. Horses were a substantial part of the business of Court Day.

The many people gathered in one place naturally attracted politicians. They made speeches and promises in attempting to gain or hold office as politicians have always done. They were usually welcomed by the populace, some of whom were sincerely interested in the candidates and their positions and by others who were entertained by the orations and debates.

All sorts of drummers, peddlers and medicine men were there with their wares. They were a supplement to the town's regular merchants who employed extra efforts to increase their business while the crowds were in town. Craftsmen sold products of their skills such as baskets and copperware. Local churches, clubs and societies sold pies, cakes and other goodies to raise money for their groups.

The rowdies were in attendance. Fighting, drunkenness and other displays of unseemly behavior were common. Taverns were well patronized. Gambling of all types occurred. Many instances of bloody fighting, even shootings, are on record. There seems to have been little control of criminal activity by police or other authorities.

Among all these activities were many who had come to town for socializing. In town, in those days, not much was available for entertainment or to enable gatherings for social discourse. In rural areas, almost nothing was available to break the monotony of daily life. Court Day became the opportunity to enjoy a respite from hard labor while enjoying a bit of variety.

In summary, we might picture a **Court Day** in Elizabethtown, Hardin County, Kentucky, in the late 1880's as a motley gathering of people engaged in most of the activities known to society at the time. There would be the noise and stench of cattle waiting for sale or barter; horses being showed, raced or swapped; hucksters cajoling the crowds to buy their nostrums and gadgets; auctioneers crying sales of livestock or other items; church societies and other groups working for their causes; preachers decrying sin; politicians speechifying or politicking one on one; town merchants busy with special sales; craftsmen exhibiting their skills and wares; scoundrels fleecing their victims; rowdies pursuing their inclinations; and a few timorous town residents staying behind locked doors until the day was over.

Court Day in Kentucky county seat towns became an exhibition of the various segments of society, particularly rural, and their pursuits during a good part of the 1800's.

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Much of the information for this article came from Robert M. Ireland's *Little Kingdoms: The Counties of Kentucky, 1850-1891*; some came from H. A. Sommers' *History of Elizabethtown 1869-1921*; and the rest came from stories heard over the years.

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## **AGAINST CIGARETTES**

*(The Elizabethtown News, March 8, 1895)*

At the meeting of the City Council Monday night by a unanimous action it was decided to pass an ordinance the object of which was to stop the sale of cigarettes. The ordinance adopted provides that no person in Elizabethtown shall sell cigarettes or cigarette material without paying a license of \$100 and imposing a penalty of from \$10 to \$100 fine to sell without license. The amount fixed for the license is so high that it is practically prohibitive. The people generally are very much pleased with the action of the Council and public sentiment will see that the ordinance is rigidly enforced.

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## ELIZABETHTOWN AND HARDIN COUNTY IN 1900

(This series of articles appeared in The Elizabethtown News in Sept. 1900)

### ELIZABETHTOWN

On the southern slope of Muldraugh's Hill is Elizabethtown, the county seat of Hardin, three hundred feet above Louisville. It has a population of over 3,000, and has grown wonderfully in the past year. It is estimated that \$75,000 has been spent in the city in the past spring and summer in new buildings, and the prospect is fine that the boom will continue next year. The city has a fine system of waterworks, the source of supply being a spring that flows over a million gallons in twenty-four hours. A fine system of electric lights has just been completed, with the most improved machinery. The town has two telephone exchanges, with over two hundred subscribers.

The county is spending now \$2,400 in improving the Court House Square, and the foundation has been laid for a first class system of sewerage. In the past few years in addition to a number of new business houses and residences, three new churches have been built. The city has a low tax rate and its water works system is self-sustaining. New sidewalks and streets are contemplated and when completed the city will undoubtedly be one of the best in the Commonwealth. Its mercantile interests are up-to-date, and there has not been a failure in this line for ten years or more. The city has fine railroad facilities and is distant a little more than an hour's ride from Louisville.

The healthfulness of the place is marked and fevers of all kinds are almost unknown among its inhabitants.

In addition to its altitude and cleanliness as promoters of good health it has as fine mineral water as can be found anywhere in the South located only a half mile from the city. [See Bits and Pieces, Vol. XVII, No. 1, "Elizabethtown's Sulphur Well," Winter 1908.] The waters of this well have been analyzed by Dr. Kastebine, the celebrated chemist of Louisville. He says of the water: "It is more like Blue Lick water than any I have ever analyzed and is especially fine for chronic disorders of the stomach and kidneys." Many remarkable cures have been made by the use of the water and people usually who drink it regularly enjoy the best of health. A number of people come here every summer to use the water and a summer resort hotel would be very profitable.

### HARDIN COUNTY

Hardin county was named after John B. Hardin, and was created by act of the Legislature in 1792 out of a part of Nelson county. Several other counties have since been formed out of part of its territory. The first settlement was Elizabethtown, the county seat, and was known originally as the Severns Valley settlement. Its population is largely made up of descendants of Virginia and Maryland families. Its foreign population is very small, the percentage perhaps being as small as any county in the State. The foreign element is almost exclusively German, and confined for the most part to Elizabethtown and the territory adjacent.

The county has produced some of the leading men of the State, notably Gov. John L. Helm, Gov. John Y. Brown, Gen. Ben Hardin Helm, who was killed at Chickamauga. It was also the birthplace of

Abraham Lincoln, the old Lincoln homestead having been subsequently included in what is now Larue county. Gov. John Ireland, of Texas, spent all of his youth in this county, and read law while he was driving a stage coach. President James Buchanan and Judge Joe Holt lived in Elizabethtown at one time and practiced law.

The county extends from West Point on the Ohio river to the Hart county line, a distance of forty-two miles north and south. The distance from the Nelson county line to the Breckenridge line east and west is about forty miles. The county in territory is one of the largest in the state.

Hardin county is exceedingly well watered. It has Salt river and Rolling Fork on its northern boundary fed by numerous smaller streams. The land in this part of the county consists of rich bottom, improved every year from the rich deposits made from the backwater from the Ohio. Most of this land has been cultivated with corn for a hundred years and the yield is from sixty to a hundred bushels to the acre, according to the season. South of the Rolling Fork valley is the range of Muldraugh's Hill, extending entirely across the county from east to west. On the slopes of these hills is the finest fruit region in Kentucky; peaches, apples, pears and grapes grow there to the greatest perfection, and bring the highest price in all the city markets. At the western end of this range is the town of West Point, on the Ohio and Salt rivers. It has a number of natural gas wells, and the gas is used in the town exclusively for lighting, heating and cooking purposes, and could be utilized for manufacturing purposes. West Point has also two railroads.

From Elizabethtown extending south is the famous Nolin valley, watered by Nolin river and its numerous tributaries. The lands in this section are as fertile as any in Kentucky. They are worth from \$40 to \$50 an acre, and produce in a good season an average of twenty-five bushels of wheat to the acre, and sixty bushels of corn. The cattle industry has grown wonderfully in the county in the past two years. Nearly a half million of dollars worth of cattle were shipped out of the county the past year.

No county in the State is in better fix financially. It is on a cash basis, has \$30,000 in the school fund, has spent in the past two years \$100,000 in cash on its public roads; has not a cent of indebtedness, and owns 800 shares of Louisville & Nashville [Railroad] stock.

The county ranks first in the State in its public school interests.

The county this year has taken rapid strides forward from an agricultural standpoint. The wheat crop of the county upon a conservative basis of calculation is placed at 700,000 bushels which is an average of over fifteen bushels to the acre throughout the entire county. One of the most remarkable features of this crop is that the thin land on the slope of Muldraugh's Hill, which can be purchased from \$5.00 to \$10.00 per acre, raised this year from fifteen to twenty bushels to the acre and in many instances the crop of wheat after paying all expenses paid for the land. Other crops in the county have almost equalled the wheat crop and the county to-day is in the most prosperous condition in all of its history. Over a half million dollars are now on deposit in the county banks, nearly every cent of it belonging to farmers and thousands of dollars of debts been paid.

The county has abandoned the old system of working the roads and they are now kept in repair by taxation. This is a long step in the direction of improved highways, and in a few years, under this system, no county in the State will have better roads than Hardin.

(To be continued)

## LYNNLAND COLLEGE

(This property is now the campus of the Kentucky Baptist Children's Home near Glendale. The following article, by Harold Mount, appeared in the College Heights Herald, Bowling Green, Ky., Oct. 21, 1932.)

Late in the summer of 1865, when the country was yet in the throes of civil strife--under conditions that were demoralizing to every element of civilization and disastrous to the growth of every principle that is ennobling, at a time when the din of war and the clash of arms had scarcely subsided, when the land was covered with blood and tears--there came into the hearts of a little band of Baptists, of the Gilead Church, a desire to erect in their midst an institution of learning that would be adapted to the wants of the Glendale and surrounding communities.

The school arose from a local demand for higher education and had its origin in an association of well-to-do farmers of the vicinity of Glendale. Those especially interested in the noble enterprise were: William Sprigg, Henry Sprigg, Samuel Sprigg, Samuel Hansbrough, J. J. Jeffries, F. W. Simmons and J. R. Gaither. About the early part of the year 1866, this noble band of citizens organized themselves into a stock company for the promotion of education in their midst and subscribed to a sufficient amount to purchase a suitable location of something over one hundred acres adjacent to the Louisville and Nashville Railroad. The first five men in the above named list contributed \$5,000 each, and \$7,000 came in from other sources, making a total of \$32,000 raised for the establishment of a school.

The buildings were soon erected, and in the fall of 1866 the institution was opened under the name of Lynnland Institute with Rev. G. A. Colson as its first principal. J. R. Gaither, one of the trustees, suggested the name of Lynnland because it is situated on the banks of that historic stream, "No Lynn," since abbreviated to Nolin River.

The first board of trustees was as follows: William Sprigg, president; J. R. Gaither, secretary; Samuel Sprigg, Samuel Hansbrough, Henry Sprigg, and F. W. Simmons.

The views of its projectors soon enlarged, and in 1867 they secured a charter for the institute, conferring upon it all the collegiate powers and privileges. It was originally intended primarily to meet a local educational need and always maintained somewhat of a local character, although frequently drawing students from other parts of the state and even other states. It was not put on a distinctive denominational basis, but was always conducted in a general way under the auspices of the Salem Association.

Due to the conflicting religious doctrines propounded by the Rev. Mr. Colson, when the school opened in the fall of 1868, General W. F. Perry from Alabama was the principal. General Perry was a well known educator and after leaving Lynnland College became a professor in Ogden College, Bowling Green, where he was working at his death in 1901.

President Perry had associated with him in the various departments a faculty of well trained teachers under whom a course of instruction embracing preparatory, academic and collegiate departments was instituted. Some of the teachers were: J. P. Hobson (later a judge of the Kentucky Supreme Court), A. M., Washington and Lee University; T. E. Harris, A.M., Virginia Military Institute; W. L. Yancy, A. M., University of Virginia; J. C. Edmonds, A.M., Virginia Military Institute; Major H. H. Eppes, A.M., Virginia Military Institute; J. M. Brown, A.M., University of Virginia; T. B. Barbour, A.M., William Jewel College; and General Chilton.

Regular college courses were offered leading to the Bachelor of Arts and the Bachelor of Science degrees. Its annual matriculation was from 75 to 100. During this period it was operated on a coeducational basis. . . .

In the summer of 1870, General Perry and Major Harris bought the school from its former trustees and converted it into a military school under the name of the Lynnland Military Institute, with General Perry as principal and Major Harris as commandant. The school flourished for several years and took a high rank among the educational institutions of the state.

The depression of 1873 seriously affected the institution financially, because the purchasers had to pay ten percent interest on the notes they had given in part payment. Accordingly, in 1876 the military feature of the school was abandoned, and it was reopened in the fall of 1885 [sic] as a coeducational institution, under the title of the Lynnland Institute, still under the management of General Perry, who was the president.

Due to the continued financial reverses of the owner, the school passed back into the hands of the trustees as the receivers in 1879. Samuel Sprigg, one of the former trustees, bought the site and used it as a private dwelling.

In 1889 the property was purchased by Professors E. W. Elrod and E. W. White, who for several years had been the co-principals of Liberty Female College at Glasgow, Kentucky. In the autumn of 1889 the institution was reopened, under the same charter, and bearing the title of Lynnland Female College, as a school for young ladies. The institution offered both boarding and local student privileges.

The course of instruction under the new order included departments of music and art, as well as of English, history, mental and moral philosophy, mathematics, Latin, modern languages and natural science, different combinations of which led to the Bachelor of Arts and the Bachelor of Science degrees, as formerly.

A part of the personnel of the instructional staff was: E. W. Elrod, co-principal, history; Amelia Fields, Bryn Mawr, assistant in history; Virgie Stafford, Randolph Macon Women's College, English; and E. W. White, co-principal, science and mathematics. . . .

The girls were subjected to strict discipline. Boarders could not visit out in any of the homes, and could only go to town with a chaperone. They could have dates on Sunday afternoon but were required to remain on the campus. Each night everyone went to the parlor for the prayer services, and on Sundays the entire student body marched to Gilead Baptist Church, about one yhalf mile away, in single file. Everyone was required to wear a navy blue uniform to church but were privileged to dress as they desired at school. The college was provided with coal oil lamps, coal stoves and pitchers with wash basins as modern conveniences. The rooms were inspected every day and cleaned by a maid once a week.

The standard of scholarship and the reputation of the institution were good in comparison with the remainder of the institutions throughout the state, but, for a second time, owing it seems to the Panic of 1893 it was not a financial success. It was relinquished by Professors Elrod and White in 1895, and they then became connected with Georgetown College, Georgetown, Kentucky.

Professor W. B. Gwynn became the proprietor and the president in 1895 and remained as such until 1907. At the opening of his administration considerable improvement was made, and the institution was changed back to its original co-educational basis, with the title of Lynnland Male and Female Institute. The matriculation for the first year was sixty-three, but it soon rose to eighty. . . .

In 1905 the Severns Valley Baptist Association organized an educational board, which purchased the college in the same year from Professor Gwynn, and it was opened in the fall under the same name and the same charter, but under the supervision of the Severns Valley Educational Board with Professor J. B. Hunt as the principal.

Mr. Hunt remained as the principal for two years, but in 1900 Professor A. N. Hollis became the principal.

Professor Burk became principal in 1910 and carried forward the educational work in the Glendale community in a creditable manner. The school had a high standard and rose rapidly in a fast growing community. A change of principals took place again the following year when Professor Allen became the administrator.

In 1912 Professor George B. Perry, now [1932] residing at Waurika, Oklahoma, the son of the president of the college as a chartered institution, became president. Perry was the last president of the institution, and as he expressed it, "I can be proud of the fact that my father was the first president and I was the last--forty-five years intervening."

President Perry conducted the school in a very creditable manner until its close in 1914. He was very kind and gracious and was liked by all who knew him. He has furnished a large quantity of the material used in this article....

(ED. NOTE: Some of the dates in this article are inconsistent, but they were copied here as in the original.)

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## **COUNTY COURT ORDER BOOK A HARDIN COUNTY, KENTUCKY (Continued from last issue)**

(Page 416)

At a county Court began and held for Hardin county at the courthouse thereof on Monday the 19<sup>th</sup> day of September 1803.

Present Stephen Rawlings, George Bell, Asa Coombes & David Morrison, esquires.

An Inventory and appraisement of the estate of Robert and Mary Richardson deceased was returned into court and ordered to be recorded.

Present William Ewing esquire.

On the motion of Mary Brian & Barton Rheuby who made Oath according to law, administration of the estate of Ignatious Brian deceased is granted

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them. Whereupon they together with James French & Isaac Irwin their securities entered into and acknowledged bond in the penalty of L200 conditioned as the law directs.

Ordered that George Bell, Michael Rentch, Josiah Anderson & Jeremiah Pairpoint or any three of them being first sworn before a magistrate of this county do appraise in current money the slaves (if any) and person estate of Ignatious Brian and make return thereof to the next court.

Ordered that Aron Chalfin be and he is appointed Surveyor of the road leading from Elizabeth Town to Millers Ferry, as far along said road from Elizabeth Town to Miles Hart's place and it is further ordered that all the hands that were to assist Josiah Hart former surveyor of said road, do assist the said Chalfin in keeping the same in repair.

Ordered that Sharp Spencer be and he is hereby appointed surveyor of the road leading from Jacob Larue's (?) To the Rolling fork

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and it is further ordered that all the hands living on the waters of Clear Creek, and as far down the Rolling fork from the mouth of Clear Creek to where Isaac Gooden lives do assist him in opening and keeping the same in repair.

Ordered that Peter Atherton be and he is hereby appointed Surveyor of the road leading from the Big hill to the Rolling fork in the room of Henry Dewitt, and it is further ordered that the same hands do assist him in keeping the same in repair that assisted the said Dewitt.

Ordered that Samuel Larue be and he is hereby appointed surveyor of the road leading from Robert Hodgen's to Anthony Vernals, in the room of Isaac Larue, and that the same hands that assisted him do assist the said Samuel in opening and keeping the same in repair.

Present Samuel Finley esquire.

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The Court doth appoint Samuel Larue Guardian to the Orphans of Isaac Larue junr Whereupon the said Samuel together with Jacob Larue his security entered into and acknowledged their bond in the penalty of L600 conditioned as the law directs.

On the motion of Benjamin Wright and John Humphries who made Oath according to law, administration of the estate of Nicholas R. Brashear is granted them, upon their entering into bond with Adin Coombes and Jacob Larue their securities in the penalty of four hundred pounds Whereupon the said Benjamin Wright and John Humphries entered into and acknowledged their bond agreeable to the above order.

Ordered that John Thomas, Adin Coombes, Thomas McIntire and Isaac Hodgen or any three of them being first sworn before a magistrate of this county do appraise in current money the personal estate of Nicholas R. Brashear deceased and make return thereof to the next court.

(Page 420)

Ordered that David McClure, Samuel Larue, Joseph Lafollett, & Richard Winchester or any three of them being first sworn before a Magistrate of this county do view the nearest and best way for a road to be opened from Elizabeth Town to George Lindseys on Knob Creek, and make report thereof to the next court.

Ordered that Samuel Snider be and he is hereby appointed surveyor of the road leading from Elizabeth Town to Rock Creek, to begin at the forks of road, about seven miles from David Morrisons on the Hartford road, and from thence to Rock Creek, and it is further ordered that all the hands belonging to Capt. Dunns company, which live on the West side of No Linn, do assist him in opening and keeping the same in repair.

The Sheriff not having made a return of the writ of ad quad damnum obtained by Cornelius Lucas last Court, it is ordered that another issue.

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Ichabod Radley sworn as Deputy Sheriff for Philip Read Sheriff of this county.

Miller vs. Kesinger continued.

Charles Helm & Squire Larue Deputy Sheriffs for Philip Read Sheriff of this county, returned their Delinquent Lists and were sworn thereto, for the year 1803, which lists were ordered to be certified to the Auditor of Public Accounts.

Ordered that court be adjourned till court in course.

/s/ Stepn Rawlings

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## ELIZABETHTOWN'S HOG ORDINANCE

*(The Elizabethtown News, April 13, 1894)*

A test case was made before Police Judge Irwin on the recently adopted town ordinance prohibiting hogs from running at large, Bob Nevitt's hogs having been taken up in the streets by the Marshal and put in the pound. The Judge decided the ordinance void in a long written opinion, the substance of which is that in the charters of the first, second, third and fourth class cities power is especially delegated to the city councils to pass such ordinances but that in towns of the fifth class, to which Elizabethtown belongs, no such charter privileges is granted. The only thing in the Elizabethtown charter looking to that direction is a provision providing for a pound to put up stock and the Judge contends this section is for the purpose under the general law which allows towns and districts to hold an election and decide by vote whether stock shall run at large.

Mr. Nevitt has instituted civil proceedings against Dr. White, the Pound Master, and the legality of the ordinance will be tested in the higher courts.

After Judge Irwin's decision it is a mooted question as to whether hogs may run at large in the streets.

## "TALKIES" AT THE THEATRE

*(The Elizabethtown News, April 11, 1930)*

Announcement was made yesterday that the committee in charge of the Masonic Temple picture show had purchased from the Radio Corporation of America sound equipment for the talkies at the Masonic show.

The first talkie at the Masonic will be heard in about a month or six weeks.

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Fall is upon us, and with it has come an increase in our membership. We welcome all our new members.

Please remember Harry Lee and his Hardin County Museum Committee. Harry needs your input, and he needs good people on his committee. Please help!

God bless you all.

Jim Weise

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING

The Hardin County Historical Society will meet Monday, October 26, 1998, 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: Honey Baked ham; au gratin potatoes, seasoned green beans, Strawberry Sunshine congealed salad, surprise dessert, rolls and butter, tea and coffee. Price \$6.25.

Call Jack Kunnecke (737-5756) NOT LATER THAN NOON, Saturday, October 24 for dinner reservations. PLEASE CALL EARLY, as the capacity of the room is limited to 65 by fire regulations. We have recently enrolled several new members, so a capacity crowd is anticipated. If you make a reservation and do not cancel, you are expected to pay for the meal.

The program will be presented by Robert M. Pilkington of Louisville, on the subject "George Rogers Clark: The Hero Nobody Knows." Pilkington is a volunteer docent at Locust Grove Historic Home, Louisville. He was formerly a director-producer-writer for WHAS-TV, specializing in documentaries, variety and panel shows, news and sports, and special events.

The program will be the presentation of Clark as an aggressive outdoorsman with a vision that would virtually double the size of his country at one stroke. He was a master at military intelligence, strategy and tactics; a practical psychologist who could persuade literally anybody to his thinking, including French settlers, chiefs of 15 Indian tribes, the British military, and his own men; a brilliant field commander. His capture of the fort at Vincennes in the sodden winter of 1789 with an exhausted force of 170 men is responsible for our acquisition of the old Northwest Territory, five states we now call the Midwest. This talk will be an account of how he accomplished this. Political enemies, the bureaucracy of Virginia, and the indifference of history robbed him of his titles and reputation, beggared him of most of his fortune, and has confused him with his brother William of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. He deserves better.

This program is funded in part by the Kentucky Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

HARDIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
P. O. BOX 381  
ELIZABETHTOWN, KY, 42702