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Of the Hardin County
Historical Society,
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Originated in 1931

Bits and Pieces

OF HARDIN COUNTY HISTORY

www.hardinkyhistoricalsociety.org

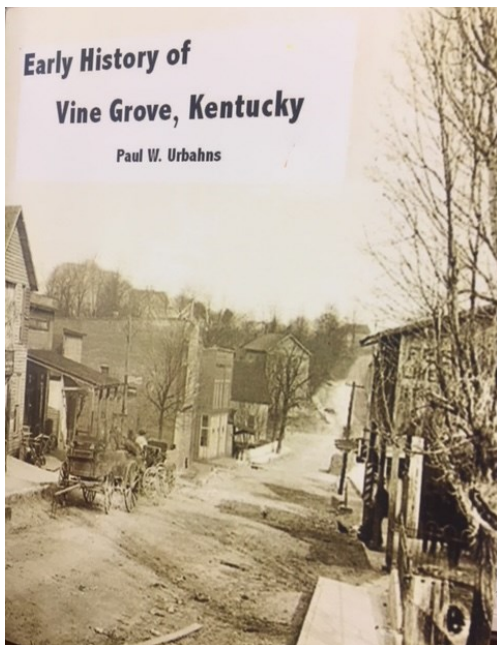
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In appreciation of Paul Urbahns donating several copies of his Vine Grove history to the Historical Society, we are featuring articles concerning Vine Grove that may not be included in his publication.



The Historical Society is pleased to share Paul W. Urbahns latest release on the community of Vine Grove. Paul's bio on the back of the book states: "Paul W. Urbahns has been a student of popular culture and local history for most of his life. Paul considers himself a "Professional Communicator" and has shared his historical research through photography, writing, and public speaking. In addition to numerous published local history newspaper articles, he has been interviewed as a subject matter expert on television documentaries appearing on the Travel Channel (2002 and 2004); History Channel (2004 and 2012); Discovery Channel (2015) and the American Heroes Channel (2016). He has also been interviewed or participated on numerous local and statewide television and radio productions"

EARLY HISTORY OF VINE GROVE, KENTUCKY will be available at our October meeting, you may order on line at www.hardinkyhistoricalsociety.org at a cost of \$25.00 including shipping.

Sherrill Williams discovered this rather amusing account in the February 13, 1901 issue of the **MEADE COUNTY MESSENGER** "Last Monday morning a crowd of our business men were sitting in Hick's barber shop (Vine Grove) discussing the weather and the ship subsidy bill, when a water pipe burst and thoroughly drenched the crowd. If Mrs. Nation and her crowd of hatchet-toter had swooped down upon them, there would not have been and great consternation that when a two inch stream of water broke loose in its fury. In the wild scramble for safety, Hicks fell over a stove, Elmer Brown cut his nose on a stove pipe and Judge Reesor carried off a window sash around his neck as he sped through a convenient window."

PRACTICAL BUSINESS VINE GROVE SCHOOLThe COURIER JOURNAL, December 16, 1945 featured an excellent article on the Vine Grove School. Following is excerpts from that edition:

In 1945, Vine Grove School was operating its own slaughterhouse, cannery, store, five apartment houses, machine shop, recreation hall and they were profiting about \$40,000.00 annually. The school activities pretty much dominated the community life and created a revenue in excess of that provided by the county school district to create a bigger and better school. Also, it provided the students with vocational and business training.

Ag teacher, Lindon Powell stated "if you want to be in the midst of things going on in Vine Grove, come to school."



Local farmer Robert Hamilton is assisted by seniors Linn Lee Nelson and John R Brown in preparing his beef for the cannery

The article stated that ten years ago when J. T. Alton came to Vine Grove as principal the school had 190 students, eight teachers and four buildings. In 1946, the enrollment was 630, 20 teachers and 15 buildings.

A community school that area farmers bring their hogs and cattle to slaughterhouse for butchering . Students in the Vocational Agriculture class would help with the butchering. The meat was then placed in the school cooling room in the slaughterhouse until ready for processing. Then it was taken to the cannery where the women of the community would come in

and assist the Cannery Supervisor in grinding, cutting into steaks, and tenderloin.

The school provided a machine shop where the community may work on their equipment or have the students do the repair work. Seven Juniors in the class took a 75 cent bail of twine and made a 133 foot rope that is much stronger than one that can be purchased in a store. It was sold to farmers at a less than retail rate.

J. T. Alton stated, "We keep one eye open for ways to make money; and when there's going to be anything given away to the school, I'm usually there."



Boys making rope L to R Dave Minter, Stanley Straney, Bob Wilson, John Nelson, and Joe Vessels.

One way the school makes money is by renting five apartment houses. Shop boys do the maintenance on the apartments.

Senior boys operated the store in the morning before classes, during recess, and during lunch. They ordered supplies, kept books and operated the business.

The school owned a rock crusher which was rented to area farmers, a truck, and three buses. Alton and Powell would drive as far as Georgia to get produce for canning. These items are later used in the school cafeteria for school lunches. Teachers and janitors are paid \$25.00 to drive the busses. About 400 students ride the bus and pay ten cents per ride.

Realizing the main task of the school is teaching, Mr. Alton worked hard developing an excellent staff. In order, to maintain that exceptional staff, the school supplemented the County salaries, so that the average elementary teacher received an extra \$125 per month and the high school teacher received \$150.00 per month.

The girls in the home economics department have a very active program. In addition to the usual classroom work, they prepared lunch menus, supervised the cafeteria and do some of the harder task such as serving and washing dishes. They are given class credit for their work in the cafeteria.



One of five houses the school rented



Lindon Powell (left) and J. T. Alton review plans for community park

A recreation hall with three ping pong tables, eight game tables, and two shuffle board courts is available every afternoon until 5 o'clock and one week evening. The hall is operated by high school boys and a teacher adviser.

Graduating seniors receive an awesome gift from the school for their labors. For a cost of \$10- \$15. the students receive a 10 day sight seeing tour.

On Wednesday afternoon 2-3 o'clock, students participated in moral training. During this time, local ministers open the churches for students to attend for Bible instruction. It was not mandatory to attend but about 95% of the student body partake.

The school owned 35 acres that they planned to clear for a future community park.



A 390 pound veal goes into cans. Mrs. Walter Warfield Wilma instructs Doris Jean Masters (Left) and Wilma Lois Masters (not Sisters) on canning techniques for home economics class



Fred Minter (left) and Harold Bewley going over the Vine Grove School's Rock Crusher. Students learn engine repair and equipment maintenance

Courier Journal, June 2, 1967: **COUPLE FETED FOR VINE GROVE SCHOOL WORK**

The citizens of Vine Grove honored Mr. and Mrs. James T Alton last night for 71 years of dedication to education and the community as principal of the high school and teacher of the second grade. There were 457 persons at the testimonial dinner for the Alton's, paying \$5.00 a ticket, which with extra contributions totaled \$2,500.00 in cash turned over to the couple to finance a trip to Europe, among other things. Verbal tributes were given by a number of Vine Grove residents who were taught by Mrs. Alton or went to Vine Grove or later North Hardin High School under Mr. Alton. One speaker was Alton's first principal, J. M. F. Hays (Glendale High School), now an Elizabethtown insurance man. Praised as devoted educators, teachers said that Alton had borrowed money at time to buy typewriters for the business education department, for athletic uniforms, for student field trips or anything else needed. Both were praised as devoted educators and members of the community, active in civic and religious affairs as well. Maty James F. Stovall said Alton is "the hardest working man I know." Two important accomplishments at the high school were obtaining a "comprehensive" rating the highest possible of 62 per cent of the graduates going to college (state average is 35 per cent). The Alton's; daughter, Mrs. Charles H Bennett, is following the tradition of teaching in the high school.

Courier Journal: October 7, 1945

FOR SALE

183 Acres 5 miles west of Vine Grove on school bus and mail route, hard road , electric lights: good improvements: well fenced: 5 acres of alfalfa: 12 acres of timber: all in grass except 40 acres that was in corn; 2 acre tobacco base. Price \$14,000.

18 Acres adjoining Vine Grove , KY with 4 room dwelling: newly painted and papered; small barn and fair land. \$3,000. Joe N. Triplett, owner

BITS AND PIECES OF VINE GROVE



Grandmother at Thirty-one. Mrs. Richard Hicks, of Vine Grove, Ky., was married the first time at the age of fourteen years. and became the mother of a daughter in her fifteenth year. This daughter was married when thirteen years and six months old; she also became a mother at an early age, making Mrs. Hicks a grandmother before she was thirty-one.

Fort Knox Motor Coach service came to Vine Grove in the late 1940's. These photos in downtown Vine Grove were taken at the inaugural of the service to transport soldiers and workers who lived in the Vine Grove area to the post.



FIRE AT VINE GROVE

June 20, 1905 OWENSBORO MESSENGER

About one-half of the business section of Vine Grove was destroyed by fire last night. The principal sufferers were Carter Bros., T. Brown and Son and G. A. Leichardt, who together sustained a loss of nearly \$25,000. The dry goods houses of Carter Bros. and T. Brown and Son were totally razed.

A KENTUCKY VICTIM

John Lancaster lost in the Maine Explosion

OWENSBORO TWICE-A-WEEK May 7, 1898

Vine Grove, May 3 Mr. W. B. Lancaster, living near here, is just in receipt of a letter from Capt Sigsbee, of the ill-fated Maine, stating that his son, John Lancaster, had gone down with his ship in Havana harbor. This was the first information Mr. Lancaster had that his son was in the navy, and he is prostrated with grief. Young Lancaster was popular here, and his untimely death has had a tendency to strengthen the war spirit among his many friends and a recruiting officer could enlist a regiment here now.



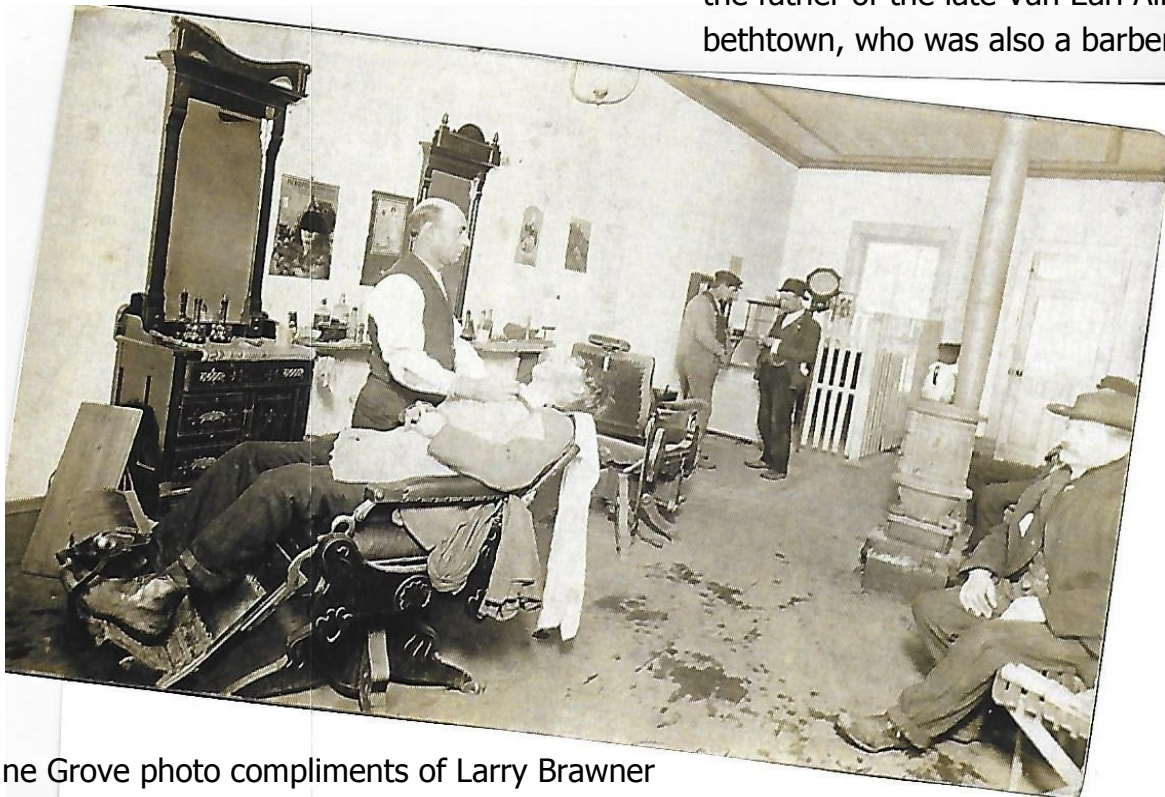
1932-33 Vine Grove High School Girl's Basketball Team

Members from front to back: Thelma Nall Puryear, Dorothy Nall Bailey, Edna Hynes Sherrard, Virginia Woods Dennis, Thelma Hunt Kerrick, Maxine Laswell Hughes, Margaret Shelton Stone, Euthelda Hargan Hamilton and Opal Allen Haynes.

Mrs. Kerrick said, "the team was not too tall, and not to good, but they certainly had fun!"



Owen Thomas Allen ran a barbershop in downtown Vine Grove for many years. The photo below was taken in the 1915-1916 time frame. O. T. Allen gives a customer a shave while other wait around the coal stove. O. T. Allen was the father of the late Van Earl Allen of Elizabethtown, who was also a barber.



Vine Grove photo compliments of Larry Brawner
Note the spots on the floor are allegedly to be tobacco spit



Message from the President.

As we approach the last meeting for this year, I want to recap some of the exciting things the Society has accomplished.

First of all, I want to thank all of you for your supporting the board with obtaining a historic marker for the Geoghegan Cemetery (\$2600) and approving an additional \$7400 to be used toward the renovation of the Sarah Bush cabin. The board feels strongly that these two projects are worthy of our attention and important to preserving the history of Hardin County.

I have been speaking with the City Parks Manager and the Mayor's office about matching funds to make the cabin restoration a reality. I am waiting word from the Mayor's office. As to next steps. The paperwork is in progress for approval from Kentucky Historical Society on signage for the cemetery.

Paul Urbahn's history of Vine Grove has been very well received resulting in then sale of almost all of the 100 original copies. Paul personally reprinted several copies and is generously donating the proceeds to the Historical Society.

Special thanks to the members who volunteered their time this summer to open the Lincoln Heritage House to the public. It was open the first weekend of each month from 1-4pm. We averaged 60-90 visitors each weekend. I received many thanks and appreciation from the visitors. One of those visitors was a nine-year-old girl who told me she was so happy to be able to tour the house. She and her father visit the lake often and always check to see if they can get inside.

Another young couple who recently moved to Hardin County expressed gratitude that the Society made it possible for the public to view the cabin and compare it to the homes we live in today. They thought that was especially important for the children. This is just one example of how we can share the great history of Hardin County.

Josh Cooper has an interesting and educational program about Native artifacts for the October 29th meeting and Perry Hagan will share some of his exhibits with us. I hope you will join us and bring a friend.

Twylane Van Lahr

← THE BRECKENRIDGE NEWS reported on August 25, 1920: "**VINE GROVE PAPER SUSPENDED** The Vine Grove Sentinel, a weekly newspaper published by F. L. Woodring has been suspended on account of increased cost of paper, print materials and lack of support. The Sentinel has been published sine 1915 →

Josh Cooper will present a program on "Hardin Before Boone: An Introduction to Prehistoric Artifacts, and the hunt for these treasures!" at our October meeting. Perry Hagan will display some of his artifacts. Perry has loaned the Hardin County History Museum a portion of his Native American artifacts. The program will begin around 7:15

**Dinner Menu for October 29th at the Brown Pusey House
Call (270) 765-2515 to RSVP before 10/26.**

Choice 1/2 Rotisserie Baked Chicken or 1/2 Rotisserie Pork
Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Green Beans, Dinner Roll, Assorted Pies
Tea. Decaffeinated coffee. Water and Lemon Berry Punch

*Cost is **\$12.00** with dinner being served at **6:30** and the meeting beginning at 7:15.*

2019 DUES YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS IMPORTANT please don't let it end!

Association dues are \$15.00 and are effective for the calendar year. Please pay at a meeting or mail to

Hardin County Historical Society
P. O. Box 381
Elizabethtown, KY 42702

HARDIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 381

Elizabethtown, Kentucky 42702

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Brown Pusey House

Call (270) 765-2515 to RSVP

before 10/26

Meal at 6:30