
Bits and Pieces

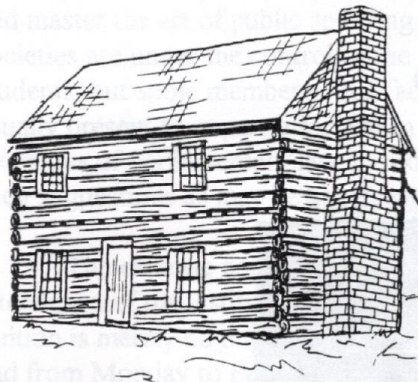
of Hardin County History

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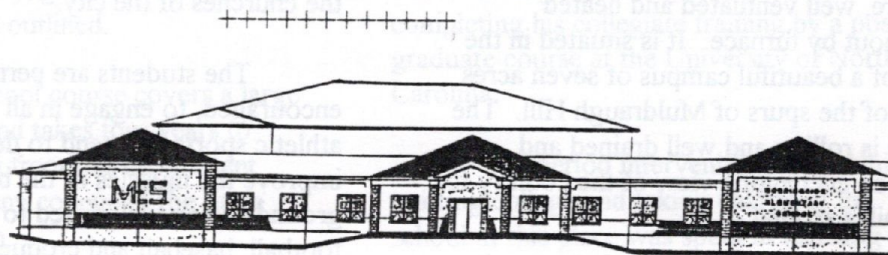


200 YEARS OF EDUCATION IN HARDIN COUNTY - 1799-1999

The minutes of the Board of Trustees of the Hardin Academy in Elizabethtown record that on April 23, 1799, in accordance with an act of the Kentucky Legislature passed the preceding December, a Board of Trustees for the Academy had been appointed, consisting of John Paul, Thomas Helm, John Vertrees, Patrick Brown, Bladin Ashby, and Benjamin Helm.

In celebration of this bicentennial anniversary, this issue of *Bits and Pieces* is devoted exclusively to the subject of education in Hardin County.

Be sure to visit the displays of education in Elizabethtown at the one-room school at Freeman Lake Park during the Heartland Festival.



HARDIN COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE

(The Elizabethtown News, Sept., 1900)



Hardin Collegiate Institute, Formerly located in 300 block of College Street (Photo Courtesy Carl Howell, Jr.)

The year 1892 saw the founding at Elizabethtown of an institution whose good influences will be felt for all time to come. Such an institution is Hardin Collegiate Institute. Though itself tutored for a while in the school of adversity, it is now on solid footing and doing a splendid work.

The building is an elegant two-story structure, well ventilated and heated throughout by furnace. It is situated in the center of a beautiful campus of seven acres on one of the spurs of Muldraugh Hill. The campus is rolling and well drained and affords an enchanting view of the country for many miles around.

There is at present being erected a handsome two-story building in connection with the college to be used as a dormitory, which will have all modern conveniences in the way of heat, electric lights, bath rooms, etc. It will be placed under the very best management and nothing will be left undone to make it a model home for the students who at the sanctum will be welcomed to all the churches of the city.

The students are permitted, in fact encouraged, to engage in all the harmless athletic sports that tend to develop and improve the muscles of the body, the grounds being well suited to such games as football, baseball and croquet clubs. During

the coming year permanent athletic associations will be organized to promote the interest of athletics in the school.

Composition and debate are taught and practice is given in each in two literary societies, viz., Hardin and Helm, organized for that purpose. Here the student can gain a thorough knowledge of parliamentary law and master the art of public speaking. These societies are under the control of the students, but some member of the faculty is usually present to impart information on questions of parliamentary law and to make such suggestions as may be necessary.

The expense connected with the attendance of the institution is at a minimum. Tuition is merely nominal and board can be had from Monday to Friday of each week for \$1.25 or for the entire week for \$2.00, making a total expense for the entire year's course in the first instance of from \$80 to \$90, and in the latter of from \$110 to \$120 per year.

Great care has been taken by the management to select a course of study suited to the demands of all classes of students.

What is termed the intermediate course is designed to fit those who have left the primary studies for the high school course and consists in reading from standard authors, spelling, defining, penmanship, written and mental arithmetic, composition, elementary geography, grammar, and history of the United States outlined.

The high school course covers a large number of studies and takes four years to complete; a diploma from this department admits students to any college of the State without examination.

Arrangements have been made whereby students desiring such a course can be instructed in commercial science and stenography and typewriting.

Arrangements have also been made for a regular teachers' course. This course embraces all the common branches and several other branches from the high school course, the teachers entering the same classes and having the same thorough instruction as the regular pupils.

The faculty is all that could be desired both as regards character and proficiency. Each member of the faculty has been selected with a special view to his fitness for his special department.

The faculty is composed of Messrs. L. H. Blanton, D.D., Chancellor; J. E. Austin, B.A., President, in charge of language and history; C. E. Morgan, Secretary and Treasurer, mathematics and science; Miss Mayme Johnson, elocution and English; Miss Lida English, music; and Miss Laura English, assistant in the intermediate department.

Mr. J. E. Austin is exceptionally well fitted both morally and intellectually for the position he holds as head of the institution. He is a native of Clayton, North Carolina, where, after being fully prepared by private tutorship, he entered the high schools and graduated from them at the early age of seventeen, after which he attended the Wake Forest College for five years, finally completing his collegiate training by a post-graduate course at the University of North Carolina.

The period intervening between his quitting college and taking charge of the school at this place was spent in teaching one

year as principal of the schools at Orangeburg, South Carolina, and three years as private tutor to the daughter of Col. Ed. H. Cunningham, of Texas, during which time he prepared her for Bryn Mawr College of Philadelphia.

His year's stay here has witnessed great improvement in the Hardin Collegiate Institute to the great joy of the citizens of Elizabethtown and Hardin county.

The school does not propose to do college work, but the management simply

desires to establish a preparatory school of high grade.

Mr. C. E. Morgan, Secretary and Treasurer, and one of the teachers, is a native of Hardin county, and a graduate of the H. C. I. As soon as the condition of the school will permit, he will finish his course at the Central University, which will take him only one year. Mr. Morgan is well qualified for the position he holds in the college, and is highly esteemed by all.

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UPTONVILLE
NORMAL SCHOOL.
— A N D —
... BUSINESS INSTITUTE ...
FOURTH SESSION SEPT., 4, 1893.
INSTRUCTION: Natural, Practical and Thorough.
COURSES: Systemmatized and Taught to Prepare for Teaching, for Business and for Life.
TUITION: \$1.50 to \$3.00 per month. Board \$2.00 to \$2.25 per week.
For Particulars Address,
J. C. PIRTLE, Principal, - Upton, Ky.

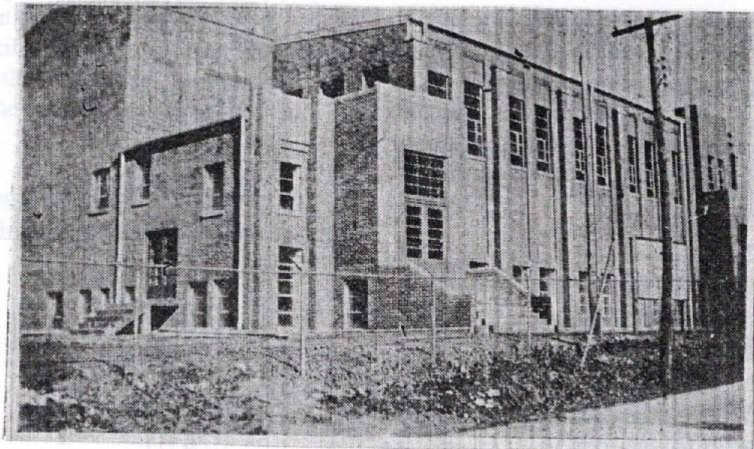
McCLURE'S HISTORY REPRINTED

Two Centuries in Elizabethtown and Hardin County, 1776 - 1976, by D. E. McClure, which has been out of print for several years, has now been reprinted. Copies are available at the Brown-Pusey House or from Barbara Lee, Book Sales Chairman, telephone (270) 765-5264, at \$65.

Mail orders, send to the Society at P.O. Box 381, Elizabethtown, Ky., 42702, and include \$5.00 for mailing.

ELIZABETHTOWN'S HELM STREET GYMNASIUM

(Hardin County Enterprise, July 11, 1939)



Completion of equipment in the new school and recreation building on Helm Street within the next few days will complete the PWA building project which was started here in September, 1938.

After completion of the building was accomplished in March, 1939, additional funds were requested from PWA to purchase equipment. This request was fulfilled and contracts awarded, but due to delays in receiving the equipment, completion date of the entire project was extended. It was first opened to the public May 25th in order to accommodate the great number of people that were to attend commencement exercises.

The basement of this fireproof structure contains 4 large classrooms, boys and girls dressing rooms and toilet rooms, kitchen and serving room, boiler room and space for coal storage. The first floor has been devoted to the auditorium; however, space was provided for a ticket office, lavatory and storage space for chairs. Bleacher seats have been constructed in the south end of the building in order the floor may be cleared to permit the playing of recreational games. The stage, located in the opposite end, has been made large enough to prevent overcrowding and complete stage lighting equipment has been installed. Dressing rooms adjoin the stage at either end. Acoustical materials have been incorporated throughout so that voices would be audible from all angles. Two large fans, thermostatically controlled, force warm air to all parts of the hall. Other equipment to be included consist of a picture machine, chairs, steel lockers, window shades and library tables. Mr. Rawlings [C. A. Rawlings, resident engineer, PWA] has stated this building is one of the finest of its kind in the state. . . .

This building was made possible by a 45 percent grant from the Public Works Administration in addition to their cooperation in compiling information and supervising.

(NOTE: This building was destroyed by fire January 15, 1946.)

TEACHERS' SALARIES

A report of the Treasurer of the Elizabethtown Board of Education from July 1, 1935, to July 1, 1936, shows teachers' salaries for that period as follows:

H. C. Taylor, superintendent	\$ 2,640.00
Mrs. Virginia Willett (H.S. principal; math & Latin)	1,359.00
Virginia Beeler (history & English)	1,260.00
Henry Faurest (coach & math)	1,350.00
Rose Patterson (English & librarian)	1,125.00
Maynard Stamper (science)	1,125.00
Annie Jones (commercial)	900.00
Mary Elliott (elementary)	714.00
Stella Hubbs (elementary)	720.00
Elizabeth Spencer (elementary)	720.00
Mrs. Helen G. Layman (elementary)	769.59
Mrs. Lily R. Whitfield (elementary)	746.55
Mrs. C. E. Martin (elementary)	674.61
Mrs. Carroll Hill (elementary)	737.19
Duesse Akers (elementary)	710.31
Mrs. Mary R. Duncan (elementary)	720.00
Elizabeth Smith (elementary)	738.54
Nancy Keith (elementary)	720.00
Mrs. Nell Edmonson (elementary)	722.34
G. W. Adams (Bond-Washington)	934.59
John V. Robinson (Bond-Washington)	739.89
Beatrice Reno (Bond-Washington)	779.94
Mary L. Hamilton (Bond-Washington)	699.39
Mary E. Smith (Bond-Washington)	675.99

(Source: *The Elizabethtown News*, Sep. 25, 1936)

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ST. MARY'S ACADEMY

This institution, in charge of the Sisters of Loretto, with Sister Simplicia at its head, though quite young, stands deservedly high with our people, and we take great pleasure in recommending it to our readers. The brick building has been raised one story and very soon a large frame building 50 by 20 feet is to be erected to meet the pressing demand of the increasing school. The Sisters are prepared to take twelve or fifteen boarders and we cannot imagine a more pleasant boarding house. The school is well located, the discipline good, the system of instruction admirable, and parents will not regret sending their children to it.

(*The Elizabethtown News*, Aug. 3, 1871)

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CECILIAN COLLEGE

There have been, over the years, a number of small institutions of learning in Hardin County which purported to offer instruction on the post-secondary level. Perhaps the best, and best known, of these in the nineteenth century was Cecilian College, located in Cecilia. It was one of the outstanding schools in this part of the United States, and was known from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico.

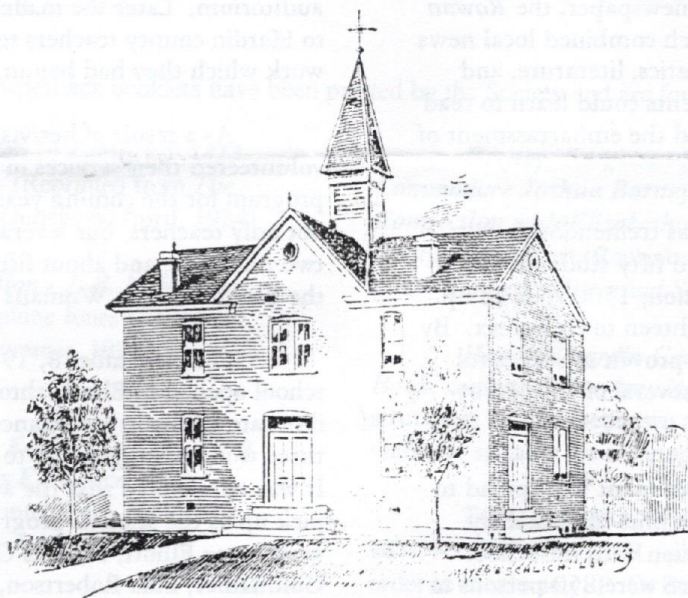
Cecilian College was founded in 1860 by Charles Cecil and his three sons, Henry, Thomas,

and Ambrose. It was strictly a family business and went out of existence shortly after the death of Henry Cecil, the president, in 1893.

Cecilian College was for men only. It had a faculty of eleven. The school was a success from the start. Enrollment was limited to 125, and often students had to be turned away. It lasted only 32 years, but during its existence it educated several thousand young men from all parts of the United States.

M.J.J.

Sonora Collegiate Institute.



NEW BRICK BUILDING.

New Single Desks, Furniture and Apparatuses; Lovely environments; Thorough Instruction through the inductive method Teachers' Course a Specialty, A Summer Normal. The next Session will begin

JANUARY 21, 1895.

Teachers and parents in quest of superior educational advantages will address, for further information,

W. H. SPRIGG, Principal.

SONORA, KENTUCKY.

MOONLIGHT SCHOOLS

In 1911 a program was started in Rowan County, Kentucky, by Cora Wilson Stewart to teach adults to read and write. Since most people worked during the day, the classes were held at night--specifically, moonlit nights, when students could more easily find their way to the schools. The term "moonlight schools" differentiated this program from the urban night schools in the northern United States.

Mrs. Stewart first recruited volunteer teachers who were willing to teach at night and to canvass their own districts to interest adult students in the program. She established, as a text, a newspaper, the *Rowan County Messenger*, which combined local news with lessons in mathematics, literature, and history. Thus, the students could learn to read the newspaper and avoid the embarrassment of using elementary texts.

The program was tremendously successful. One hundred fifty students were expected in the first session; 1500 showed up, ranging in age from eighteen to eighty-six. By 1913, the program had proven so successful that it was taken up in several of the nearby counties.

By 1915 the movement had spread to Hardin County. At that time the illiteracy census, taken in connection with the school census, showed that there were 850 persons in Hardin county over the age of ten years who could not read or write. Of that number, 201 were black and 649 were white. The largest number residing in one school district was in Laurel Ridge, where there were fifty-seven.

Some programs were already in place. In March, 1915, the Rev. John A. Fryrear, trustee of the Richardson school district near Howe Valley, won a prize offered through the Kentucky Illiteracy Commission to the school

trustee in the state doing the most to promote moonlight schools. There was an enrollment of seventy-six in the moonlight department of that school, and frequently as many as fifty students attended the sessions. One of them was Rhoda Lawson, said to be ninety-five years of age. Fryrear solicited pupils for the school and took great interest in the success of the moonlight department. Gladys Graham was the teacher.

In August of that year Mrs. Stewart visited Elizabethtown to share her experience in the moonlight program. She addressed a group of citizens at a meeting in a local auditorium. Later she made an inspiring plea to Hardin county teachers to continue the work which they had begun.

As a result of her visit, 74 persons volunteered their services in the moonlight program for the coming year. Those included not only teachers, but several rural trustees, two ministers, and about fifteen members of the Elizabethtown Womans Club.

On November 8, 1915, a moonlight school opened in Elizabethtown, with five illiterate adults in attendance, two men and three women, ranging up to sixty years of age. It was anticipated that the attendance would pick up as the sessions progressed. Teachers were Mary Elliott, Frances Castleman, Lillie Goldnamer, Lula Robertson, and others.

It was reported in December that 207 pupils were enrolled in Hardin County's moonlight schools, at schools of Sycamore (18), Oak Ridge (72), Liberty Hall (15), Sonora (8), New Union (24), Hoover (12), Sand Ridge (30), Locust Grove (8), and Elizabethtown (20).

Positive support was received from the Hardin County Board of Education in the

summer of 1916 when G. L. Crume of Vine Grove was employed for the months of July and August of that year to supervise the rural schools in the county, giving particular attention to the moonlight schools. His appointment was viewed as a progressive step by the Board, and his efforts were very successful.

There was increased interest in moonlight schools after the United States entered World War I. Parents wanted to be able to write to, and read letters from, their sons in the military service.

Following the war, there was decreased interest in these programs. However, with the inauguration of Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal, many young men enrolled in work programs such as the CCC, taking them away from home, creating once more a need to communicate. Government programs were set up to benefit those lacking in skills.

Since World War II there has been an expansion of adult programs from basic literacy to even higher levels.

M.J.J.

BOOKS FOR SALE BY THE SOCIETY

The following paperback booklets have been printed by the Society and are for sale for \$1.00 each:

James Buchanan in Kentucky, 1813, by R. Gerald McMurtry (Reprinted from *The Filson Club Historical Quarterly*, April, 1934)

The Carrie Nation - J. R. Neighbors Incident, by Mary Josephine Jones (Reprinted from *Bits and Pieces*, Summer, 1997)

Elizabethtown, Kentucky 1779 - 1879, The First Century of Its Existence, by R. Gerald McMurtry (Reprinted from *The Filson Club History Quarterly*, April, 1938)

Sarah Bush Lincoln, the Beloved Foster Mother of Abraham Lincoln - A Memorial, published by the Elizabethtown Woman's Club, 1921

George Armstrong Custer in Elizabethtown, Kentucky, 1871 - 1873, by Mary Josephine Jones, 1998.

Barney, Forgotten Hero - The Story of Commodore Joshua Barney and his Connection with Elizabethtown, Kentucky, by George K. Holbert (Reprinted from *The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*, April, 1943)

Historic Hardin County, Ky., Coloring Book, containing line drawings of 22 historic structures by Elizabethtown artist Barbara Gaffney, suitable for coloring by children.

TO ORDER ANY OF THESE BOOKLETS BY MAIL, please send your order to the Society, P. O. Box 381, Elizabethtown, Ky., 42702. Include \$1.00 for mailing the first booklet, and \$.50 for each additional booklet ordered at the same time.

Also available at a price of \$3.00 each is a booklet of 12 pages, *The Lincolns in Elizabethtown, Kentucky*, by R. Gerald McMurtry, 1932. Same cost for mailing as above.

REGULATIONS FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF HARDIN ACADEMY

1. The teacher shall regularly attend the school 5 days in one week, from 1-1/2 hours by sun in the morning until one hour by sun in the evening, each day, from the 1st of October to the 1st of April except one hour's respite for dinner. And from the 1st of April to the first of October, from 2 hours by sun in the morning until 1-1/2 hours by sun in evening of each day except 2 hours' respite at dinner. And except one week at Christmas, 2 days at Easter, and one day at Whitsuntide, being the usual holidays. And there shall be 2 exhibitions in the year and one week of holiday at each exhibition.
 2. The teacher shall take due care that the school house be kept as clean as the nature of things will admit.
 3. The teacher shall take due care that in weather that require it, comfortable fires be kept up for the use of the scholars.
 4. The teacher shall take due care that the firewood furnished by the employers shall not be wantonly wasted.
 5. The teacher shall take due pains in classing the children submitted to his tuition, as far as convenient, the males by themselves and the females by themselves, and that each of them receive a regular rotation of lessons, always beginning with the eldest class and so on in progression.
 6. The teacher shall use due diligence in keeping each and every scholar from speaking, reading, or spelling aloud in school, except when speaking to said teacher or when spoken to by him, or at a time when they may be rehearsing their lessons before him.
 7. The teacher shall use due pains that each scholar or class coming before him to repeat a lesson shall stand upright and erect in their several places, without any shuffling, lounging or other rude or disorderly motions or behaviour, and that they shall be taught when approaching or leaving him to conduct themselves with that respect due from a scholar to a teacher.
 8. The teacher shall take due care that the scholars pay due respect to each other, and to those who from time to time may visit the school, and that no rude expressions, cursing or swearing or gambling shall be used, except such playful games customary at well regulated schools.
 9. It shall be the duty of the teacher to report to this board quarterly the number of scholars attending the school, designating the several grades.
 10. It shall be the duty of the president of this board to appoint in regular rotation two of the trustees at each stated meeting to visit the school and report to the next meeting the progress of the school and scholars.
 11. It shall be the duty of the teacher to report to this board as the case may require, all (if any) ungovernable scholars attending his school above the age of 14 years, that the trustees may take order therein.
 12. The teacher shall take care that none of his scholars shall bring to the school or use any dangerous playthings such as cross bows, bows and arrows, guns &c, and suppress all quarreling, fighting or other illegal exercise.
- Lastly, the teacher shall take care to compel, as far as may be consistent with propriety, the due attendance of his scholars at the time of opening school, and make enquiry of the cause of negligence (if any) from the parent, and use his best endeavour to correct such negligence.

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THE STEWART SCHOOL FUND

In the entire history of the county, John H. Stewart is the only person who has ever made an endowment from his estate for the benefit of schools. He set up a trust fund of five thousand dollars in 1879 and provided that the income therefrom should annually be prorated among the teachers of the county on the basis of the number of pupils enrolled. It was said of him some years after his death that no man in Hardin county can dispute with him the honor of having done most for the cause of education, both with his money and his personal influence.

Stewart was born August 5, 1828, to poor parents. He had limited opportunities of acquiring an education, being confined to a few months in a common school. However, by grit and determination he prepared himself for a position as a teacher, and engaged in this profession during much of his early life. In May, 1863, he was appointed to a position with the Federal Government with the responsibility of collecting revenue taxes, and remained in this and related positions for the next twenty-two years. He was conscientious in the discharge of his duties, and is said to have done more than any other officer in his district to compel obedience to the revenue laws. In matters involving public finances, he was known to be scrupulously accurate in the public trust. He was treasurer of the sinking fund committee of Hardin county for six years, and by his actions saved many

thousands of dollars to the county due to his ability as a financier. He was active in the organization of The Bank of Elizabethtown and was one of the directors and principal stockholders.

By deed dated November 7, 1879, he set aside stock for the Stewart Common School fund for Hardin County because he had "an earnest desire for the prosperity of the common schools of Kentucky and especially in my native County, Hardin, and for the purpose of a more fully developed interest in the cause of Common School education in said County...."

He subsequently augmented the holdings in this fund in order to provide an income sufficient to pay annually to each teacher two cents per capita for each child of school age in the county.

In 1916, the sum of \$148 was distributed to teachers. In 1999 the income, which amounted to \$5687.60, was prorated among the certified personnel in the schools of Hardin county, including the independent districts of Elizabethtown and West Point. The amount per teacher was \$5.08.

(Dr. William Kelley, director of finance for the Hardin County Schools, furnished some of the figures used here.)

M. J. J.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMING ACTIVITIES

Two activities are planned for the Hardin County Historical Society members during the coming quarter. Please participate in both of them.

The regular meeting will be held Monday, July 26, 1999, at the Brown-Pusey House, 128 N. Main St., Elizabethtown. Dinner will be served at 6:30 PM, followed by the program at 7:30. 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, Layered gelatin Salad, Parsleyed Potatoes, Green Beans, Dessert. Rolls and Butter, Coffee and Tea.
Price \$6.25.

General George S. Patton will be the topic of the program, to be presented by Denver Fugate, retired professor of history at the Elizabethtown Community College. Fugate has visited Germany a number of times in conducting his research, and has interviewed the driver of the car at the time of Patton's fatal accident.

Call Mary Jo Jones (765-5593) NOT LATER THAN FRIDAY, JULY 23, for dinner reservations.

Plans have been made for members to visit, on Sunday, September 12, the Lincoln Memorial Cemetery, where a number of members of the Lincoln family are buried, including Bathsheba Lincoln, grandmother of the President. We will view the monument given by the people of Illinois to the people of Kentucky in commemoration of Abraham Lincoln. Gary Kempf will be the leader. This should be a very interesting trip, and it is hoped that many persons will participate. Meet at the City Parking Lot on N. Main Street near the Brown-Pusey House at 2:00 P.M. on Sunday, September 12. We will carpool to the site.

HARDIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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ELIZABETHTOWN, KY 42702



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