

Harrison Heritage News

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Rattling Spurs

Bill Penn, Editor

With this issue the Harrison County Historical Society launches a new monthly newsletter. The contents will include contributions from the historical society, Harrison County Trust museum, a column of historical notes by George Slade, and local, regional, and state news concerning history and preservation relevant to our community. Although a newsletter was printed in the mid-1980s, none has existed in recent years.

An article in this issue outlines efforts to publish a Cynthiana Civil War sites driving tour. We also need a walking tour of downtown, and a driving tour of other historic sites - which could include historic buildings, cemeteries, African American historic sites, and so forth. Nancy Farmer once had a walking tour prepared by the Chamber of Commerce; perhaps this could be located and reprinted.

The historical society's Battle of Cynthiana Committee has been meeting monthly planning a third Battle of Cynthiana reenactment. Acting Chairman David Moore is recruiting reenactors for the event to be held September 23, 24 at the Elks Farm (former historic Desha farm) on the Claysville Pike. The committee is planning to coordinate related Civil War activities with merchants, schools, and the library.

Send comments and suggestions to:
Bill Penn, 423 Mill Rd., Midway, KY
40347; or, Email hmms@att.net

History Notes

George Slade

Covered Bridge Authorized

"Authorizing the Erection of a Bridge Across South Licking at Cynthiana. Approved, January 8, 1810.

"Whereas it is represented to the present General Assembly, that the erection of a bridge across South Licking at Cynthiana, in Harrison County, would be of public utility: Wherefore - Be it enacted by the General Assembly, That it shall be, and may be lawful, for the county Court of said county, to erect a bridge across South Licking, anywhere opposite the town of Cynthiana by subscription and county levy, or either of them, and upon such plan, as said court may deem advisable."

(From *Acts Passed at the First Session of the 18th General Assembly, for the Comm. of KY, CVII.*)

Early Doctor Advertisement

"I have removed to the county about four or five miles from Cynthiana, on the farm lately occupied by Major Thomas Holt, lying on the head Gray's Run, about 3 miles from Leesburg, 2 miles from Leeslick and 1 mile from Mt. Pleasant meeting house, where I desire to continue the practice of medicine, surgery, etc. I may be consulted at all times at my own house when not on professional duty. John H. Duncan, N. H. All those who have bottles or vials belonging to the shop of Holt and Duncan are requested to return them immediately, or else they will be charged for them. (*Guardian of Liberty*, August 29, 1818).

Civil War Driving Tour

The Cynthiana-Harrison County Chamber of Commerce has formed a Civil War tourism committee whose purpose is to identify, interpret, and preserve Cynthiana's Civil War sites for educational purposes and to promote tourism. The first project will be a Battle of Cynthiana driving tour, which will include a brochure and tour markers. Future projects may include seeking grants for battlefield protection. The committee is being advised by the KY Heritage Council's (KHC) Civil War Sites Coordinator, Tom Fugate, who spoke at the Chamber's January meeting. Cynthiana has been identified by the KHC as one of eleven significant Civil War battlefield sites in KY. Although some pockets of battlefield land within the city limits remains, the largest intact site is the Keller's Bridge battlefield. A driving tour will enable Cynthiana to participate in planned state-sponsored Civil War and John Hunt Morgan trails.

Book Notes

A new Civil War book will be of interest locally. *Bluegrass Confederate: The Headquarters Diary of Edward O. Guerrant*, William C. Davis and Meredith L. Swentor, editors (LSU Press, \$44), is one of the rare diaries by KY Rebels. Although the chapter on Morgan's June 1864 Battle at Cynthiana appeared in the *Register* of the KY Historical Society, this is the first time the entire diary has been in published.

For anyone interested in a study of pioneer stations in the Inner Bluegrass region of KY, including our own Ruddell's Station, read *Stockading Up*, Nancy O'Malley, (UK Dept. of Anthropology, 1994, \$25, paper).

William H. Perrin's *History of Bourbon, Scott, Harrison and Nicholas Counties, KY*, (1882, 1999, Southern Historical Press, \$55), is again available. Although somewhat smaller print is used than in the rare originals, the identical pages are included, along with a new index.

HCHS Discusses Past/Future

The February 17th meeting of the Harrison County Historical Society attracted a large turnout of twenty-one persons. George Slade, acting chairman, suggested that the historical society either attempt to reverse an apparent lack of interest, recruit new members, and begin new projects or face the possibility of disbanding.

Harold Slade, a member of both the historical society and the Harrison Co. Trust museum, was against

The next meeting of the Historical Society will be Thursday, March 16, 7 PM at the library.

disbanding the society or merging with the museum group and encouraged revitalizing the historical society. He pointed out many accomplishments of the society, such as leading the preservation of the old cemetery, giving monetary aid to the museum, and forming the Battle of Cynthiana Reenactment Committee.

A monthly newsletter for the society will begin in March, with Bill Penn, editor, and George Slade and others contributing articles. Mayor Wells requested that the society help in the design and text for an Abdallah Park historical marker the city is funding. A nominating committee for officers will report at the next meeting, March 16th. The historical society bylaws will also be on the agenda.

(Excerpted from minutes submitted by Dorothy Slade)

Harrison County Museum

Martha Barnes

The Cynthiana-Harrison County Museum, 13 S. Walnut St., is open Fri-Sat. 10AM-5PM. There is no admission charge. The museum is a treasure trove of historical items, most of which are directly related to the community.

The military section includes the Civil War uniform and sword of Capt. James Madison Wilson, on loan by great-grandsons Evans Wilson and Richard T. Wilson. Harold Slade and Herbert Allen Moore are responsible for the attractive display.

Publications: The gift shop has for sale copies of Boyd's *Chronicles of Cynthiana* (reprint) and *Cynthiana Since 1790* by Virgil Peddicord and supplemental index. Also, we have for sale a new index for *This Old House* (K. Wilson). Only a few copies remain of *Rattling Spurs and Broad-Brimmed Hats: The Civil War in Cynthiana and Harrison Co. KY, (Penn)*.

The staff, directors, and members meet on the second Saturday of each month at 5 PM at the museum. The popular Museum Grist Mill Day, an annual event, will be on May 27, sponsored by the Hyatt and Kelly families.

For more information call the museum at 606-234-7179, or directors at 234-1053, -3147, and -5835. Members and volunteer docents are always welcome. Bring your family and friends.

If you are not a member we invite you to join. We need your support.

Dues are \$5.00 per Calendar year. Make checks payable to "Harrison County Historical Society"

Mail to P. O. 411 Cynthiana KY 41031

Meetings are 3rd Thursday of each month 7pm at the Community Room of the Library