

Harrison Heritage News

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Rattling Spurs

Bill Penn, Editor (hmms@att.net)

Only days before his death in April at 93, Bill Hinkson was still telling his wife, Pauline, and me stories about the buffalo roads and Indian relics he found as a youth on his family's farm, and about the ghost stories of an elderly black man on the farm, Scott Stevens (died 1920s). Now owned by John Hendricks, this farm is about one mile south of Lair on the east side of U. S. 27 and stretches to the S. Fork Licking River.

Bill Hinkson was the last direct descendent of a pioneer whose presence here dates to 1775. The Hinkson farm was part of a 1400-acre settlement and preemption to Col. John Hinkston [later, "Hinkson"], who established Hinkston's Station 1775. It was abandoned because of fear of Indians, but was resettled as Ruddle's Station in 1779. Bill Hinkson's father was John; grandfather Thomas Hinkson; great-grandfather Samuel; and great-great grandfather Col. John Hinkston. (Hinkston Creek, near Ruddells Mills in Bourbon Co., is named for Col. Hinkston.)

In the 1880s, Thomas Hinkson was president of Redmon Distilling Company on Gray's Run near Cynthiana. Bill donated to the Cynthiana-Harrison Co. Museum a portrait of Thomas, along with a collection of interesting illustrated distillery invoices.

Also on display at the Museum is a collection of arrowheads donated by Bill, some of which he found as a kid near the old buffalo road, and which were among his last memories. [Sources: O'Malley, *Stockading Up*; Perrin, *History of Bourbon, Scott, Harrison & Nicholas Co.*]

History Notes

George D. Slade

BERRY BURNS

[*Cynthiana Democrat*] "On Monday, August 1, 1932, fire starting in the basement of the store of B. B. Whitaker, at Berry, about 8:30 o'clock, swept the eastern end of the business section, destroying twelve buildings and contents.

"The Falmouth Fire Department came in through Kelat and though their water supply was limited to wells and cisterns they managed to save the Baptist and Methodist Churches.

"The Cynthiana Fire Department came in from the west side of Berry with an engine and 1500 feet of hose. The truck was placed in the river and pumped water on buildings on the west side of the railroad. Had it not been for their actions, all the buildings on the west side of the railroad would have gone up in flames.

"The Cynthiana Fire Department returned to Cynthiana about 3 o'clock Tuesday morning. More than 300 men were required to pull the heavy truck from the river to the road. Cables were attached to the machine and it was hauled up the steep bank without mishap."



Harrison Co. Courthouse - 1882 (Perrin)

1890 Lynching

[*Bourbon News*, March 21, 1890] "Dan Gruell was taken from his home at Kelat March 19 and hung by a mob. Several years ago, Gruell bought cattle in the lower part of this county, to the amount of several thousand dollars, and gave bogus checks... His life was threatened and he fled to the mountains where he remained until a month ago. Before leaving...Gruell was taken from his home and made to pony up the \$1,500. It is claimed he made threats to burn the barns of those whom he owed. The body was not cut down until a late hour Thursday morning."

[Note by George D. Slade: My father was born in "downtown" Kelat, September 16, 1889. Many times I heard my dad (who was 6 mo. old at the time of the hanging), my grandfather and others talk of the "hanging of Dan Gruell." About 14 years ago I decided to research the story. Milton Criswell took me to the spot near Curry's Run where the hanging reportedly took place. The tree and site had been leveled by a bulldozer. I finally found the date of the hanging in a court record paying Judge Lafferty for the "...inquest on dead body of Isaac D. Gruell who was hung by unknown parties on night of March 19, 1890."]

Book Notes

KY history book collectors are often faced with paying high prices for some rare books.

Here is an inexpensive way to collect out-of-print KY books. The Kentucky Bicentennial Bookshelf series by the University Press of Kentucky included about fifty titles. Printed in 1976, they were originally \$4.95, and can each now often be found in used book stores in the range of \$7 - \$15.

Titles include many interesting subjects: the Civil War, agrarian life, frontier, horses, moonshine, biographies (Clay, Barkley, Morgan, Boone, Goebel, etc.), newspapers, medicine, artists, folk architecture, tobacco, quilts, Shawnee, and the Shakers.

The small, colorful, hardbound books have 80-125 pages, illustrations, and have bibliographical notes. Surprisingly, they have no index, which can be annoying during research.

A few of the titles, like *The Civil War in Kentucky*, (Lowell H. Harrison), and *The Life and Adventures of Daniel Boone* (Lofaro) are still in print in a new edition, with dustcover and index.

Although some titles may be hard to find, most used book stores will have one or two in stock. And they provide much interesting reading for fans of KY history.

Anyone interested may write the editor for a complete list of titles in the series.

Historical Society Minutes

Next Meeting Speaker:

Mr. Al Alfaro, President of the Kentucky Genealogical Society (KGS), will speak at the next meeting on June 15, 7 PM, about a family history book he wrote and discuss the KGS.

His book is about the Alfaro and White families plus the Foster family. He is beginning research on a new book about the Kentucky National Guard from 1792 up to the

The next meeting of the Historical Society will be Thursday, June 15 7 PM at the library.

present.

Mr. Alfaro was in the U.S. Army during W.W.II, serving with the 11th Airborne Division. After his discharge in 1950, he joined the KY National Guard, retiring as Colonel in 1980.

He lives in Frankfort and is married with three children. The meeting is open to the public.

The Harrison County Historical Society officers for 2000 are:

President: Robbie Toomey
Vice-President: Tonya Coleman
Secretary: Jane Adams Whitehead
Treasurer: Hallie Martin

If you are not a member we invite you to join. We need your support. Membership is only \$5.00 per calendar year. Make checks to the Harrison County Historical Society and mail to the address on top of page one. Meetings are the third Thursday of each month 7 PM in the library's community room.

Cynthiana -Harrison County Museum

Martha Barnes

"School days, school days, dear old Golden Rule days." Those lines from that old familiar song reminds us of Cynthiana and Harrison County schools of yesteryear. The Museum has on display in its "school corner" numerous photos and mementos from all the county schools: Buena Vista, Renaker, Berry, Sunrise, Connersville, and Oddville.

Pictures from Mt. Zion, Broadwell, Claysville, Avena, Fletcher, Hell's Half Acre, Poindexter and Richland Schools are reminders of the days of one-room schools. In one small building students of all ages were taught by a school marm, using slates, McGuffey Readers, with rough benches instead of desks.

Also on display are chairs from Miss Fannie Zoller's school on Walnut Street, Miss Sarah Lai's Little Red Schoolhouse, and desks from Marshall and Connersville Schools.

An impressive number of items are displayed from Cynthiana High School, Marshall School, and Banneker School. CHS alumni will gather June 24th at the museum in the afternoon before the banquet that evening. See the wonderful recent model of Harrison County High School by Neville Haley.

The Museum at 13 South Walnut St. is open Fri-Sat., 10 AM-5 PM. Thanks to everyone who helped with the Museum Grist Mill Day, especially the Hyatts and Kellys.