

Harrison Heritage News

Published monthly by Harrison County Historical Society, PO Box 411, Cynthiana, KY, 41031

July - 2000



Vol.1, No.5

Rattling Spurs

Bill Penn, Editor (hmms@att.net)

Harrison Co. Buffalo Trace

The latest issue of the *Filson Club Historical Quarterly* (Vol. 74, Spring 2000, No. 2) includes an article, "Pioneer Routes in Central Kentucky," by Neal O. Hammon.

Many early Kentucky roads were originally buffalo roads, or traces, that the animals usually kept clear of bushes and trees. "One of the most important buffalo routes into central Kentucky allowed pioneers to travel from the present Maysville...to Lexington and beyond" which roughly follows present-day US 27/68.

A western fork on the north side of Hinkston Creek in Bourbon Co. connected Lower Blue Lick and Ruddle's Station, near Lair. From Barterville it went west past a south branch of Beaver Creek to Hooktown Creek northward to Headquarters. "Along the ridge between the latter two creeks a road is still called 'Buffalo Trace'."

"This buffalo path reached Bourbon County near the right-angle turn in Ky. 32/36 and ran in an east-west direction to where Ky. 1940 crosses the Harrison-Bourbon Co. line. In Harrison Co. the trail led down a small branch to Ruddle's Station...two miles below the bridge at Lair." The trail continued west, crossing the Licking River, in a straight line toward Georgetown.

The author states that "these old trails between Lexington and the Ohio River were used by both the Indians and American militia before and after the battle at Blue Licks August 1782."

History Notes

George D. Slade

Hinkston's Addition

Hinkston's Addition was the first land added to the original town of Cynthiana as laid out by Robert Harrison. In December Court 1797, Book A, Page 115, it is written, "Ordered that 40 acres of land, the property of Robert Hinkston, lying on the East side of the town of Cynthiana, be added to the said town and the property thereof visited in the present outgoing trustees of said town who or a majority of them shall have power to layoff the same in convenient lots, streets and alleys and to sell the same at public auction, etc." This addition is now bounded by Walnut, Pleasant, Miller and Bridge streets.

Cyclone City

Colemansville...was almost entirely destroyed. It was about four o'clock...March 25, 1884, when the tornado struck. Of 22 houses only four were left. The lone fatality was a three-week-old child which was snatched from its nursemaids arms, blown 300 yards, mashing its skull. The 40 x 50 ft. Baptist Church building was lifted about 300 yards in the air when it seemed to explode, and was scattered a distance of 300 yds. Later the framework of the Baptist Church organ and a bunch of love letters were found in the courthouse yard in Brooksville. At the time tornadoes were called cyclones, and for years, Colemansville was known as "Cyclone City."

Boiler Explosion

The Log Cabin, Jan. 4, 1907.

"The boiler at Kendall Flour Mill at Berry blew up in some unaccountable way last Saturday morning and the boiler, weighing several tons, was blown across the river into the town of Berry, a distance of 225 yards, and alighted on ground much higher than the level from which it started. After crossing the river in mid-air the boiler struck the ground twice, bounded over a fence and crashed into the kitchen of Mrs. Boyer's residence. A remarkable fact is that no one was injured. Mr. John Brown, the miller, was standing at the side of the boiler and was covered with brick up to his shoulders. Jim Sam Moore, the fireman, was blown out of the boiler room door."

Bianckes Move

Cynthiana Democrat, March 13, 1930 - "Mrs. C. Biancke and D. R. Beckett, restaurant owners, who have been occupying the Williams Building on the northwest corner of Pike and Walnut streets have been notified by the owner, Dennis Williams, to give possession of the store rooms by April 1, when the building will be razed to make way for a modern two-story business house. The frame building on the corner was built directly after the War Between the States. It replaced a shed-like structure which housed a plow factory, owned by the grandfather of John M. Cromwell. The plow factory shed was burned during the battle of Cynthiana."

Dam at Covered Bridge

Cynthiana Democrat, July 28, 1921 - "The City Commissioners, at the regular meeting, Tuesday night, appointed a committee to confer with the Fiscal Court with regard in securing permission to dam South Licking River, connecting the abutments of the covered bridge at the foot of Main Street as part of a five foot dam" for a city water works permanent pool.

Book Notes

In the last Book Notes column I told about collecting Kentucky Bicentennial Bookshelf series used books as an inexpensive way to acquire Kentucky history books. Other low-cost Kentucky history sources to collect are back issues of Kentucky's two historical society publications, the *Register* of the Kentucky Historical Society (published since 1903) and *The Filson Club History Quarterly* (published since 1926).

These publications have scholarly yet entertaining articles on Kentucky, along with book reviews. Back issues are often found at used books stores from about \$3 or less for issues since the 1950s to about \$7, or more, for the more scarce earlier issues. Certain issues may cost more, such as the Filson Club issue of July 1961 with the "Civil War Annals of Kentucky" from Richard Collin's *History of Kentucky*. The most common dates in book stores are since the 1960s; older issues from the early 1900s are harder to find.

When I began collecting them, I would sometimes buy five, ten, or twenty issues at a time, to take advantage of quantity discounts. But now that I have most issues since the 1960s, the search has become more challenging.

Begin your search at Lexington's Black Swan or Glover's bookstores, or Frankfort's Poor Richards. (Bill Penn)

Historical Society Minutes

May 18th - 23 attended the meeting which featured a talk by Sgt. Brian Tim Wells, Cynthiana Police Dept. Mr. Wells displayed an original 1928 Thompson Submachine-gun and a M15A4. This Thompson gun has been in the possession of the Cynthiana Police Dept. since 1934. The FBI provided it and a similar machine-gun to the Harrison County sheriff that year.

Robert Poindexter brought an original slavery document with Henry

The next meeting of the Historical Society will be Thursday, July 20 7 PM at the library.

Clay's signature from the estate of Judge H. A. Haviland, his ancestor.

The historical society will set up a concession on June 30th for a courthouse concert by the Harrison Co. High School Band.

June 15th - The program was presented by Mr. Al Alfaro, President of the Kentucky Genealogical Society. He spoke about a family history book (Alfaro and White families) he wrote and presented two copies to the historical society for the public library. Since the library has received as a gift a microfilm reader, the historical society's fund for one will not be needed at this time.

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

July brings thoughts of those lazy, hazy days of summer. Ice cream freezers of various sizes, a rubberish bathing cap, a Harrison County button with the slogan - "We Want A Swimming Pool," and hand-held fans from local businesses are among the collection at the museum. Mrs. Sue Dailey's 1934 4-H apron, canning jars of various sizes, cooking utensils, agriculture implements, tobacco items, and horse show programs remind us that county fairs are truly a thing of the past and present.

The museum is celebrating its sixth anniversary this month. To celebrate the occasion, WCYN will broadcast its Coffee Break radio program live on July 28th at 8 A.M. Volunteers and museum friends will gather for coffee and donuts during the broadcast. Visitors on that day may register to win a copy of the *Chronicles of Cynthiana*.

In July 1994 the museum was opened with a few items on display in one room with great hopes and dreams. Our collection now fills six rooms - and there is a great need for a larger facility.

Young people from the public library's summer reading program recently participated in a scavenger hunt at the museum. Bring your friends and visit us at 13 S. Walnut Friday and Saturday 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. Special tours can be arranged by calling 234-1053, -5835, -3147, or -7179.