

Harrison Heritage News

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

October 2000



Vol.1, No.7

Rattling Spurs

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Expanded Newsletter This Month

Readers will notice an additional two pages this month, a feature we plan to continue. The extra pages allow for a feature article and provide for the newsletter to be folded in half with the address on the bottom half of the last page. With the intention of publishing new material from time to time, I have chosen an unpublished manuscript by a Union soldier describing his involvement in the Battle of Keller's Bridge. The pages could also be used for genealogy articles.

Our Past Historians

I have not found biographies of our past county historians, including Lucinda Boyd (*Chronicles of Cynthiana*), John M. Cromwell ("Cromwell's Comments" in the *Cynthiana Democrat*) and William H. Perrin (*History of Bourbon, Scott, Harrison, and Nicholas Counties, Kentucky*). In future newsletters, we plan to feature each of these writers, with a summary of their life, other books published, obituaries, and photographs. Contact George Slade if you know of a photograph of Lucinda Boyd.

Civil War Reenactment a Success

Last month's third Battle of Cynthiana Reenactment at the Elk's Lodge farm attracted over 75 reenactors, about six cannons, and an enthusiastic crowd of spectators, many from out of town. We look forward to an even larger event in 2001, attracting more tourists.

History Notes

George D. Slade

The New Court House (*Cynthiana News*, Aug. 11, 1853)

"We would speak with entire commendation of our new court house, did the grounds and exterior embellishments correspond with the fine appearance of the building itself; but at present the contrast is not at all pleasing. On one side it is flanked with a long low market house, a receptacle of beef and other eatables, while on the other side the public square is disfigured with irregular one story offices, that mar the architectural effect of the edifice they surround. If the public square can be rid of these unsightly encumbrances, without inflict-



Harrison Co. Court House (Perrin, 1882)

ing irreparable harm on individuals, we hope, for the sake of the good looks of our town, they may be removed.

"Let us have a beautiful public square around the court shaded with noble forest trees - the aforesaid encumbered, of course being first re-

moved. It would harmonize with the costly and ornamental building the county has erected; would be a beautiful ornament to the town, and wouldn't it be the very place for loafers to recline beneath the cool shade of its spreading oaks and elms! We fancy it would.

"The railroad will bring many strangers to our town, honest pride, as well as enlightened self-interest, should prompt us to make it look as attractive to their eyes as possible. In this connection we would suggest to our fellow citizens to brush and brighten up our town as much as possible; remove every appearance of dilapidation; use the paint and white-wash brush freely; plant trees along the sidewalks - in a word, array Cynthiana in a Sunday-go-to-meeting-dress for the great railroad which is fast approaching. All this will tell in gaining the good opinion of strangers and inducing them to take up abode with us. A word to the wise is sufficient."

Town Clock

(*Cynthiana News*,
Sept. 14, 1854)

"Next Saturday, in the afternoon or in the evening, the citizens of Harrison County, and the town of Cynthiana, will please meet at the Court House, for the purpose of taking into consideration the propriety of placing on the said Court House cupola a TIME-PIECE - one that will be heard when striking, far and near. Come up, ye men of Harrison."

Historical Society Minutes

Jane Adams Whitehead

September 21, 2000 - A motion was made and approved to donate an additional \$100 to the Battle of Cynthiana Reenactment Committee.

The program was a slide presentation by Bill Penn on the Second Battle of Cynthiana, June 11-12, 1864. Mr. Penn noted that this was actually three separate engagements between Morgan's Raiders and Union troops: The first at the covered bridge June 11; the second at Keller's Bridge that

**The next meeting of
the Historical Society
will be Thursday,
October 19, 2000,
7 PM at the library.**

same morning; and the third June 12 at the site of Battle Grove Cemetery.

Continuing the Civil War theme of the meeting, Robert Poindexter brought a flag to see if anyone could identify it. Robbie Toomey correctly noted it was the First National CSA flag, the "stars and bars," with a circle of stars in a blue field and three horizontal red and white stripes. This was the flag Morgan used.

The topic of the next meeting will be a question and answer session on local history; bring your unsolved mystery for the group to discuss.

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

The Cynthiana-Harrison County Museum participated in the Harrison Memorial Hospital Auxiliary Tour by extending its hours of operation on Sunday, October 15, 2000, 1-5 P.M. Opening the museum on Sunday is a goal of the museum staff. Additional volunteers are needed to make this possible on a regular basis.

The auxiliary's tour was different this year in that it did not focus on historic homes. Instead churches, the old jail, the courthouse, our neighbor the Selden Renaker Inn, and the museum were opened to assist the auxiliary in their annual fundraiser.

As a part of its collection, the museum has an impressive number of items representing the churches of our community. The focal point of the exhibit is the model of Benson United Methodist Church handcrafted by Carl Blackburn. On display are a Bible dated 1874 from Indian Creek Baptist Church, the bell clapper and stained glass from the St. Edward Catholic Church building which burned, a plaque from Broadwell Presbyterian Church, a section of iron fence from Salem Christian Church Cemetery, and numerous church hymnals, histories, bulletins, and pictures. In addition to the framed pictures, the Slade cousins (George and Harold) have photographed all of the churches in Harrison County (approximately 65) and compiled them in an album. By perusing this album, one could do a study of architecture.

Robert Poindexter has provided for display special items related to the old jail - a photograph of the jail under construction in 1888 and the huge stone tongs which are pictured. Also on loan is a watercolor painting of the jail by Alvan Berry. Recently, Mayor Virgie Wells contributed a framed photo of her mother who was jailer at one time.

The weights from the courthouse clock are now a part of the museum's collection as is one of the original lamps. Also displayed are pictures of the courthouse through the years - both with and without those controversial "wings." In the museum's military section is a scabbard which is believed to have been left in the courthouse bell tower by a Civil War soldier who had been hiding there.

The museum staff is proud of its extensive collection. New members are always welcome. Come join us in "preserving our past to reach the future."