

# Harrison Heritage News

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

June 2002



Vol. 3 No. 6

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## History Notes

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### MAPLE SUGAR

On all the "Planet Earth" maple sugar production is limited to a relatively small area that is the north central and north eastern United States and eastern Canada. At the time the Europeans came, the American Indians had been making maple sugar for centuries. The earliest Indian method for producing maple sugar was slow but sure. They simply collected the sap water from the sugar maple tree, poured it into shallow containers and allowed the water to evaporate, leaving only the sugar. Later, to accelerate the process, they heated the sap in birch bark pots. Then came the white man with his huge iron kettles that he traded to the Indians for sugar and furs. Building fires under iron kettles containing the sap caused the water to evaporate at a much faster rate. Time was saved but making sugar from maple tree sap was, and still is, very slow going.

I can remember when I was about six or seven years of age (80 years past) our family visited somewhere out in the country. The folks brought out and passed around something called "maple sugar cakes." I recall that I thought this was better than any candy that I had ever eaten. I never forgot the taste of maple sugar. I don't know of anyone in this area that makes maple sugar or syrup at this time. This is probably due to the scarcity of sugar maple trees. In all my research I have but one time happened upon any mention of maple sugar or syrup. This ad appears in the March 15, 1918, issue of *The Cynthiana Log Cabin* - "Pure maple syrup. Made at Oscar Rankin's sugar camp. Guaranteed absolutely free from adulteration. Possibly last chance to secure pure syrup. \$4 a gallon. Leave orders at Lawrence Rankin's Store, Morning Glory, Kentucky. Phone Rural 83-2. O. C. Rankin."

The Indians did not have permanent homes. Winters were spent usually near large lakes where wild game, ice fishing and berries, fruits and vegetables, preserved during summer, provided an ample food supply. Late winter found them moving to their sugar camps. After the sugar season they moved to their garden camp where they planted corn and other vegetables, on to the berry picking camp, back to the garden camp to gather and preserve the crops, then returning to the winter camp, completing the circuit. Maple sugar was important in the preservation of their food and for other uses.

My great-grandparents, Sam and Polly Slade, lived and operated a general store and the Curry post office on the north side of Currys Run Creek, about nine miles north of Cynthiana, Kentucky. The location was on the north side of a county road about one half-mile west of the Falmouth Pike. In 2002 Gertrude Patrick lives in a house that occupies the site of their home. I took my Dad to the site in his late years where he identified many landmarks as he remembered them. He pointed to a large creek-bottom field and said, "This was the location of the sugar camp." Dad recalled that it contained a large grove of sugar maple trees. He said that each summer an Indian camped near the creek and searched for something. He never revealed for what he was searching. No doubt, before the coming of the white man, this was the Indian's sugar camp.

Making maple sugar and maple syrup is very unpredictable. For sap to run, nighttime temperatures must go below 32 degrees and daytime temperatures above 45 degrees. Some years, when summertime temperatures rapidly follow winter there may not be any sugaring. Daily, each tree might produce from zero to a few quarts of sap. Thirty-nine gallons of water must be evaporated from each forty gallons of sap to produce one gallon of syrup, more to produce sugar. Determining when the sap has been reduced to proper consistency for syrup is an exact science. Syrup producers say that a candy thermometer is not always the right answer, especially when making small batches. When the sap has boiled down to near the syrup stage a metal spoon is dipped into the near syrup. If the liquid runs off in a steady stream it is not ready. When one drop comes off the spoon, it is close. When a drop comes off, rapidly followed by another, it is ready.

At this time, states producing maple sugar and syrup commercially are Vermont, New York, Maine, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, and Michigan. Quebec, Canada, is by far the largest commercial producer of maple syrup.

## Harrison County Historical Society

Jane Adams Whitehead

The Harrison County Historical Society met at 7 P.M., May 16, 2002, at the Cynthiana Public Library. President Larry Moss presided over the business meeting, which included approval of the minutes and treasurer's report.

The program on Morgan's Raiders was presented by Charles F. Hinds of Frankfort. Mr. Hinds, a retired educator, historian, writer, librarian and W.W.II veteran, contrasted the cavalry of John Hunt Morgan's day with the mobilized cavalry of the 1940s. Morgan's second raid on Cynthiana was described as renegade action which amounted to a beginning of the end for the swashbuckling warrior and his men.

**The next meeting of the Harrison County Historical Society will be June 20, 7 pm at the public library. The program will be presented by Rick Chasteen, who will discuss dry stone wall construction. This should be an interesting topic, so be sure to attend the June meeting.**

**Harrison County, Ky., on the Web:**  
[www.cynthianaky.com](http://www.cynthianaky.com) - includes historical society newsletters.  
[www.battleofcynthiana.org](http://www.battleofcynthiana.org) - Civil War and reenactment information.  
 Reenactment will be 9/14-15/02.

Contact the editor if you know of other links to Harrison County, Ky. history or genealogy.

## Cynthiana -Harrison County Museum

Martha Barnes

### *James L. Patterson Saddlebags and Holsters*

In the back room of the museum are three artifacts of the Patterson family: saddlebags, pistol holsters, and an engraving of a bull. The saddlebags have Mr. Patterson's name written on them, along with the date "1847." Bill Penn purchased these items and a leather trunk they were stored in at an auction of the Miller Lail farm over thirty years ago. This farm was located ten miles from Cynthiana with its entrance crossing Silas Creek on the Townsend Valley Pike.

Who was James L. Patterson? We need only to consult Katherine Wilson's fine book, *This Old House*, and Perrin's *History of Bourbon, Scott, Harrison and Nicholas Counties, Ky.*, to learn more about this family. Mr. Patterson (born 1815) was the son of Joseph Patterson who came to Kentucky from Virginia after the Revolutionary War. His mother was Susan Smith, daughter of Eliza Smith, of Pennsylvania. Both of his parents died in 1849. James L. Patterson married Margaret J. Miller of Harrison County in 1841, the daughter of Hugh and Mary (Ewalt) Miller.

James L. Patterson built the old homeplace, Rural Choice, in 1840, and accumulated 1, 460 acres of farmland. Katherine Wilson wrote that, "He was a successful breeder of Cotswold sheep, Shorthorn cattle, horses and mules, but took particular pride in his cattle. He sold his registered Shorthorns all over the United States, delivering them in person."

The Pattersons had no children except a foster son, Miller Lail, who later married Emma Noise. The Lail children were: Jim, Margaret and John. After Emma's death, Mr. Lail's second wife was Mary Drane, and there was one child by that union, Anne Eliza Lail. At the time Miss Wilson interviewed the Lail's for her book, Anne Eliza was 95.

The saddlebag and holsters have historical significance in that they were used by one of Harrison County's most prominent farmers. The pair of pistol holsters originally were connected by a leather strap so that they could be draped over a horse's neck. By their size, it appears they would have held a pair of the early single-shot percussion pistols common in the era before 1850, such as Kentucky-type pistols or even military pistols that found their way into civilian use.

The Cynthiana-Harrison County Museum is located at 112 S. Walnut Street, Cynthiana, Kentucky. Mailing address: PO Box 411, Cynthiana, KY 41031. Hours are 10 AM to 5 PM Fridays and Saturdays. Telephone: 859-234-7179 (during Museum hours only), or call 234-1053, 234-5835, or 234-3147. We welcome volunteers.

*Civil War Driving Tour: Site No. 11, Camp Frazer*

## **THE 35TH OHIO AND CAMP FRAZER - CYNTHIANA, KY.**

William A. Penn

The 35th Ohio Volunteer Infantry was organized in Hamilton, Ohio, in August-September 1861. With nearly 900 men, the unit arrived at Cynthiana by train from Covington the night of September 26, 1861, for a one-month stay. A bluff adjacent to the northern edge of Cynthiana was chosen to establish Camp Frazer (often misspelled Fraser), named in honor of Dr. Joel Frazer, a Union man on whose farm it was located. This was soon after Kentucky officially abandoned neutrality, when many trains with troops and supplies passed through the state.

Camp Frazer has been located from a map (from the diary of Perry Boatman, courtesy of Ken Hamilton), and was bounded by the old Falmouth Pike on the east, the railroad on the south, and the Licking River on the west. This section of the old Falmouth Pike, now bypassed by U. S. 27, originally crossed the railroad tracks and became North Main Street, on the west side of the present-day viaduct. This site was convenient to railroad transportation, a water supply from the river, and the Falmouth Pike.

It was the responsibility of the 35th Ohio to guard the Kentucky Central Railroad bridges and trestles in the Harrison-Bourbon County area. Squads were posted to prevent these sites from being burned or damaged, which could result in the disruption of this important military supply line into Kentucky for a week. Blockhouses, erected either by the 35th Ohio or later Union guards, are shown at each end of the bridges on an 1863 military map. The Camp Frazer map indicates an artillery unit accompanied the 35<sup>th</sup> Ohio.

When not performing guard duty, the men received drill instruction at Camp Frazer. Although slaves visited the camp, the officers usually would not let them in, for recruiting African-Americans was not yet allowed. At first, local citizens avoided the soldiers and "did not fancy the presence of Union soldiers on the sacred soil of Old Kentucky." But this attitude changed, for a number of women who were Union supporters made a flag that was presented during a dress parade. Although its location is not now known, the flag survived the war as the prized possession of an officer.

The 35th Ohio, better trained than when they arrived, marched from the camp to the depot on October 22, 1861, and left Cynthiana. Although they engaged in no fighting here, the unit eventually participated in many Civil War battles, including Perryville, Chickamauga, Kenesaw Mountain and Peach Tree Creek. Some other Ohio units apparently camped briefly at Cynthiana during the war while passing through Kentucky. Camp Frazer was active at least through 1862: it was reported Morgan destroyed Camp Frazer and supplies on July 17, 1862 (Collins, I:104), and slaves were seized to dig entrenchments there in August 1862 in anticipation of a Confederate invasion of Kentucky. Later Union encampments at Cynthiana named "Camp Tod" and "Camp Caroline" were probably on the former Camp Frazer site.

Sources:

Keil, *Thirty Fifth Ohio, A Narrative*, (Fort Wayne, 1894); Reid, *Ohio In the War*, (Cincinnati, 1868) 2:611; Map, National Archives, 1863 Kentucky Central Railroad Defensive Works; Desha Papers, Univ. of Ky. library archives.)

### **Battle of Cynthiana Reenactment - 2002**

The Battle of Cynthiana Reenactment this year will be on September 21 and 22. The reenactment will again take place on the Elk's Lodge Farm on Oddville Pike. On Friday, September 20, school children will visit the camp site and meet actors portraying Lincoln, Davis and Lee. For more information contact Chairman David Moore, Dan Clifford, or the Cynthiana Harrison County Chamber of Commerce.

### Genealogy Queries

KING/JACKSON - Seeking parents of Abner B. King, born Harrison Co. 1828, died Bracken Co.; married in 1853 to Lydia Nelson Jackson. Virginia King Rusk, email: kingrusk@mindspring.com.

*Queries seeking family information are published as a free service. If you have a query, please send it to: William A. Penn, 423 Mill Road Pl., Midway, KY 40347, or email hmms@att.net.*

### Family Genealogy

*If you have a family genealogy you would like to be published in the Harrison Heritage News, please contact the editor at the above address, or write us using the address on the top of page one. Limit of one or two pages.*

### Publications available from Cynthiana-Harrison County Museum, 13 South Walnut Street, Cynthiana, KY 41031 (859-234-7179); open Friday and Saturday 10 AM - 5 PM:

- Boyd, Lucinda, *Chronicles of Cynthiana*. This is a reprint of the rare 1894 edition, which includes family histories, the famous account of David Sheely and his ghost, and other historical sketches and scattered accounts of persons and events connected with Cynthiana and Harrison County. 262 pp. Hardbound. \$20.00.

- *Cynthiana Since 1790*. Virgil Peddicord (1986). Mr. Peddicord attempted to list the owners/businesses located on each lot from the founding of the city through the mid-1980s, including subdivisions added through 1923. 171 pp. (See separate index below). Paperback. \$20.00 - *Index - Cynthiana Since 1790*. Mr. Peddicord did not prepare a comprehensive index for his book. This supplemental index contains about 3,500 names and a reference city street map. 30 pp. Paperback. \$3.00

**NEW** - *This Old House* by Katherine Wilson. Now back in print, this book tells the stories of twenty-six early Harrison Co. houses and the families who have occupied them. Much material on Harrison Co. history. Exterior and interior b & w photos of each house. Originally printed 1956-1957. 70 pp., new index, paperback. \$15.00

Please include a handling and shipping fee of \$4.00 for first book, \$2.50 for each additional book; you will be notified if special shipping fees apply. No shipping fee on *Index - Cynthiana Since 1790*, if ordered with the book. Make checks payable to "Cynthiana-Harrison County Museum." No credit cards. Prices/fees subject to change.

Back issues of the Harrison Heritage News are on file at the library. There is an annual index.

### Harrison County Historical Society Officers - 2002:

President:

Larry Moss

Vice President:

Tonya Coleman

Secretary:

Jane Adams Whitehead

Treasurer:

Hallie Martin