

# Harrison Heritage News

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## Cromwell's Comments

John M. Cromwell

### Der Tag

(Reprinted from Democrat, November 26, 1931)

Today is the DAY – when, that toothsome bird, the turkey, is supposed to be “the piece de resistance” on every well regulated dinner table.... I was kind of “raised up” with turkeys, so to speak. My mother was one of the first to introduce “bronze” turkeys in the county, and sold many pairs for breeding purposes. I have known her to raise as many as 100 in a single season; and recall as a boy that it was my job to see that they came home to roost (you know turkeys have a habit of roosting where night overtakes them) and many an hour have I put in searching the farm for delinquent flocks.

Later on, when I became connected with the old National Bank, I was to become tolerably familiar with the market side of the turkey business. We handled the account of S. Renaker, the first man in Cynthiana, I believe, to begin killing and shipping turkeys east in car load lots; later J. W. Boyd became associated with him.

It was in 1884, if my memory is not at fault, that one R. D. Wentworth, member of a Boston commission house, first came to Cynthiana, and arranged with Mr. Renaker for his output of dressed turkeys; and continued to come for several years thereafter, always remaining during the killing season. He was a typical down easter, [down-easterner] a keen business man, and became a well known character about town.

And here I am reminded of a little incident that happened the first year Wentworth came to Cynthiana. There was a show on at the old Opera House [Aeolian Hall] one night, and a large crowd in attendance. Mr. Wentworth happened to come in late, and in lieu of a better seat, climbed to the top of a step ladder which chanced to be standing at the rear of the room. This was the cue for the boys, and forthwith they set up a tremendous “gobbling.” In justice to Wentworth however, allow me to say that he took it like the good sport that he was.

## History Notes

George D. Slade (gslade@setel.com)

### CYNTHIANA OVERALL FACTORY

When I was a kid blue overalls was the most popular attire for working class males of all ages. In summer, I wore B.V.Ds underwear around the clock and went barefoot. Upon arising from bed all that I did was slip on a blue everyday shirt, jump into my “overhauls” and I was ready to go.

City leaders, in the early 1900s, much the same as today, were using their influence to attract industry to Cynthiana. The Commercial Club, “Hustling to Build Up Cynthiana and Harrison County,” was formed in January 1906. At the February meeting Mr. B. F. Goldnamer told the club of prospects of an overall factory locating here. The *Log Cabin* newspaper, dated, March 24, 1906 says “A number of prominent businessmen report prospects for an overall factory good. Would employ about 70 people, mostly girls.

May 8, 1906, the City Council grants a permit to Cynthiana Overall Factory to erect a building on their lot on Poplar Street. May 14, 1906, the deed for the property on Poplar street to Cynthiana Overall Company, H. C. Ship, President, was completed. (N. E. corner of Poplar Street and alley that runs parallel to and between Mill and Penn Streets.) The L&N Railroad gives special rates to the company and the city grants a request for free water. The July 20, 1906 *Log Cabin*, advertises “50 Sewing Girls Wanted – The Overall Co. expects to start the new factory about August 1<sup>st</sup> and will need 50 more sewing girls. Make applications to H. C. Ship. All applications must be accompanied with reference.” The *Log Cabin*, dated August 31, reads, “The *Log Cabin* man visited the overall location this week and found the work progressing nicely. The directors are confident that the company will have enough orders to run full capacity the year round.”

Looking for more information about the overall company, I searched the local newspapers through the remainder of 1906, all of 1907 and 1908 and in the December 10, 1909 issue of the *Log Cabin* found, “PUBLIC SALE OF OVERALL FACTORY, Saturday, Dec. 18, 1909.” The ad lists real estate and all equipment, including some 60 sewing machines, button hollers, cutters, tables, dynamo, boiler etc.

It is recorded in Harrison County Deed Book 74, Page 143 – Cynthiana Overall Co. sold at public auction to William Addams all real estate, machinery and personal property located on Poplar St. for amount of \$2380.00. Date of sale Dec. 18, 1909.

## Historical Society Minutes

Jane Adams Whitehead

The Harrison County Historical Society met at the library on Thursday, October 17, 2002. During the business meeting the minutes of the previous meeting and the treasurer's report were approved. President Larry Moss asked Neville Haley to make a recommendation for a small public address system to be used during the meetings.

The speaker for this meeting was Billy Grayson, superintendent of Battle Grove Cemetery. Mr. Grayson described the various programs the cemetery has put into place to both maintain the existing landscaping and to plan for future trees and shrubs. He also gave a history of the Confederate Memorial and its connection to the Civil War battle fought on the cemetery property. The cemetery is currently creating a data base of all interments that will be easier to reference for genealogists and others who use cemetery records. The Historical Society thanks Mr. Grayson for attending this meeting and discussing this Harrison County landmark.

Esther Ammerman, W.W.II aviator, will be the next speaker November 21; she will tell of her experiences as a pilot who trained combat pilots.

*Next Meeting of the Historical Society will be Thursday, November 21st at 7 pm. The speaker will be Esther Ammerman, who will relate her W. W. II experiences as an aviator. Be sure to attend this informative meeting.*

### Harrison County, KY on the Web:

[www.cynthianaky.com](http://www.cynthianaky.com) (click on "historical society" for Harrison Heritage News)

[www.battleofcynthiana.org](http://www.battleofcynthiana.org)

## Cynthiana -Harrison County Museum

Martha Barnes

As most of you know, George Slade writes a marvelous weekly column entitled "Museum Musings." In his column which is published in The Cynthiana Democrat, George frequently includes classic advertisements from Burma Shave. In the early 1900s men used brushes and shaving soap to soften their whiskers before shaving. In 1925, Clinton Odell invented a new product to replace the messy soap and brushes. It was a shaving cream that men could spread on their faces using just their fingers.

The name of the product was Burma-Shave. Mr. Odell enlisted the assistance of his sons, Leonard and Allan to come up with advertising ideas. Allan's suggestion of using six small signs placed along the roads at intervals was most successful. People read the signs and bought the shaving cream. In one year, sales went from zero to \$68,000. The first signs did not rhyme, but soon the Odells decided the signs should be more fun for motorists to read. They began to create funny jingles to put on the signs. Although, Mr. Odell's main goal was to sell his product, he also worried about the growing accident rate on highways. He decided to include messages about safe driving on the Burma-Shave signs.

After a few years, the Odells ran out of ideas so they started a jingle contest. For every jingle they accepted, they paid one hundred dollars to the writer. Some years they received more than 50,000 entries. Eventually, more than six hundred jingles were placed on seven thousand sets of signs along America's highways.

From 1927 to 1963, Burma-Shave was a very popular product. Times changed, people drove faster, freeways replaced two-lane highways. In 1963, the Odells sold their company, and by 1965 the signs were gone. The Cynthiana-Harrison County Museum does not have a Burma-Shave sign in its collection. Probably some of the red signs are nailed up in someone's old shed to cover a hole - wouldn't that be a fantastic discovery? Recently our faithful museum volunteers, Adrian and Jeanne Osborne donated a Burma-Shave jar for display.

The Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. has a set of Burma-Shave signs in its collection. It reads: This Cream - Is Like - A Parachute - There Isn't - Any Substitute - Burma-Shave. We encourage you to visit the museum. Bring your holiday guests. We also continue our search for volunteer docents and model builders.

Visit the Cynthiana-Harrison County Museum, 112 S. Walnut Street, Cynthiana, KY 41031. Hours 9-5 Friday and Saturday.

## Methodist Church Beginnings in Harrison County (Part I)

George D. Slade

The Methodist Episcopal Church was the first organized church in Cynthiana, which was chartered as a town December 10, 1793, one year after Kentucky's statehood was established. In December 1797 the first addition to the town was made, this being the land of Robert Hinkston, and called Hinkston's Addition. At that time no provision was given to the creation of what is now Church Street. The addition was divided into sixteen one-half acre "in Lots" and eight four-acre "out Lots."

The Methodist Conference in 1803 met at Mount Gerazim in the Harrison County community of East Broadwell, three miles from Cynthiana on the Ruddles Mills Road. This was the scene of many early camp meetings, which were practical affairs since there were few meeting houses and even those would accommodate only a small audience. In 1817 a meeting at White's Meeting-House in Harrison County which attracted two hundred worshippers. Soon afterwards, Leroy Cole held a meeting in Cynthiana that won many converts, and soon afterwards he began a search for land suitable for a church building. That land was found in Hinkston's Addition.<sup>1</sup>

Leroy Cole became a Methodist minister in 1777, and was an itinerant preacher in North Carolina before traveling to Clark County, Kentucky, in 1808. He married the daughter of Dr. Thomas Hinde, a native of England who was a physician in Virginia where he was Patrick Henry's family physician.<sup>2</sup> Cole lived about one mile from Cynthiana on the Cynthiana-Ruddles Mills road.<sup>3</sup>

About 1817 the Academy, Cynthiana's first school, was moved from its location on the Graveyard lot in the northeast corner of the town to Hinkston's Addition. The new building was located in the center of the block, straddling Out Lots No. 1 and 2. In 1818, for the sum of \$250, Richard Henderson and his wife, Fannie, deeded to Leroy Cole and other trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church a lot described as follows: "Beginning at a stake the S. W. corner of Out Lot No. 2, in Hinkston's Addition to said town of Cynthiana on Main Cross Street [Pike Street] and running thence N. 96 feet to a stake on Main Cross St.; thence with said cross street West 123 feet four inches to the beginning - containing one-fourth acre."<sup>4</sup> The first church building was erected in 1820. The brick structure faced Main Cross Street [Pike Street] and seated up to 500 members. The trustees in 1818 were Leroy Cole, Peter Barrett, John Frazer, Joshua Jones, James Finley and Carter Anderson. In 1831, the church purchased for one dollar from the Richard Henderson heirs eighty feet frontage on Pike Street and the same depth as the original church lot. This extended the frontage on Pike Street to 203 feet 4 inches, bordering the property of J. W. Peck on the east.<sup>5</sup>

The first church building and all the records stored there were destroyed by fire in 1844. A second brick church was constructed in 1845 facing Second Back Street [Church Street] and seated 250. One of the original trustees, James Chambers, who had since moved to Illinois, presented a mortgage claim in 1852 for \$81.87 against the church for stone and carpentry work in connection with work performed in 1845. Unable to pay the amount in cash, the church had satisfied the debt by transferring by mortgage one-half of the church lot having no buildings thereon to Chambers. The deed reads in part, "Trustees M. E. Church to C. M. Chambers all that certain piece of ground being the one half of the lot on which the said M. E. Church S. stands and said half being the east half or that half now unimproved east of said house now occupied as said church to have and to hold etc. etc." No mention was made of the measurement but one-half of 203' 4" would be 101' 8". Due to court litigation it would eventually take twenty years to settle the matter.<sup>6</sup> Although no picture of the second church building has been found, it was reported to have had an old-fashioned church spire and the auditorium was reached by a broad stairway leading to the front doors, which were "a little perilous in icy weather."<sup>7</sup>

By the late 1860s, the 1845 structure was not able to accommodate the growing congregation that was now about 250. This became evident after a September 1869 Methodist Conference appointed Rev. C. W. Miller as the new pastor. Within a few months his popularity resulted in the membership being doubled and soon a building committee, composed of Caleb Walton, H. D. Frisbie and Henry Williams, awarded Humble & Son, Covington, the contract to build another structure. The second building was razed in 1870 and a third and larger brick structure was erected at a cost of \$11,000. The dedication took place in November 1870 presided over by Rev. Dr. E. W. Sehon of Louisville. The new church faced Pike Street and seated 400 persons. Following is a description of the building published soon after it was built: [continued on p. 4]

[Continued from p. 3] The building is provided with a basement where fuel is stored and the furnace located. The audience room is thus raised above Pike street, from which the vestibule is conveniently reached by two or three steps, thence communicating with the interior by two doors. In the south end of the vestibule there is a neat study and library room, fitted up to accommodate the pastors' reading and writing, for Dr. Miller was devoted to ecclesiastical learning as well as to his specific clerical duties. In the north end of the vestibule there is a corresponding room for miscellaneous articles. The desk, fronted by a balustrade, is situated under the dome of a tastefully arranged bay-window in the rear of the auditorium. The walls and ceilings are handsomely finished in fresco. The arched windows extend from the chair-railing nearly to the ceiling, and are supplied with stained glass of rich and varied colors, and the conventional spire indicates the religious character of the edifice.<sup>8</sup>

The James Chambers' mortgage claim on the church property was finally settled in 1872. An 1873 deed reads, "Master Commissioner to W. W. Cleary - Whereas the Harrison Circuit Court in the State of Kentucky at its November term A. D. 1872, rendered a judgment in the action of James Chambers, plaintiff against M. E. Church, defendants, directing the sale of the property hereby conveyed, which sale was accordingly made to W. W. Cleary on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of December 1873 by the Commissioners of the Court etc. etc."<sup>9</sup> Owners of the lot, following Cleary, were C. Musser and W. A. Cook.<sup>10</sup> The town at this time was making plans to replace the old Academy school building on the adjoining lot. With this in mind the city purchased the former church lot from Cook in 1882.<sup>11</sup>

[In the concluding Part II, scheduled for Dec. 2002, Mr. Slade will describe the current 1905 church and its additions].

<sup>1</sup> Florence, Sarah Ann, "A Brief History of the First Methodist Church, Cynthiana, Kentucky, (1976), no pp.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> Perrin, William H. (ed), *History of Bourbon, Scott, Harrison and Nicholas Counties, Kentucky* (Chicago 1882), 282. Hereafter, Perrin, *History*.

<sup>4</sup> Harrison County Deed Book 6, p. 22, dated October 9, 1818. The land for the first Cynthiana Presbyterian Church was donated by Richard Henderson in 1820, and was located on Out Lot No. 1 on the south side of Pleasant Street, east of Church Street. After the church moved to another location, the lot reverted to the heirs of Issac Miller (see Perrin, *History*, p. 22-23.)

<sup>5</sup> Harrison County Deed Book No. 12, p. 398. Trustees in 1818 from Perrin, *History*, p. 283.

<sup>6</sup> Harrison County Deed Book No. 24, p. 503, dated May 18, 1852.

<sup>7</sup> Perrin, *History*, p. 283.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>9</sup> Harrison County Deed Book No. 36, p. 204, December 23, 1873.

<sup>10</sup> Harrison County Deed Book No. 39, November 22, 1877.

<sup>11</sup> Harrison County Deed Book No. 44, p. 313, November 13, 1882.

### **Cromwell's Comments by John M. Cromwell to be Reprinted by Cynthiana Democrat**

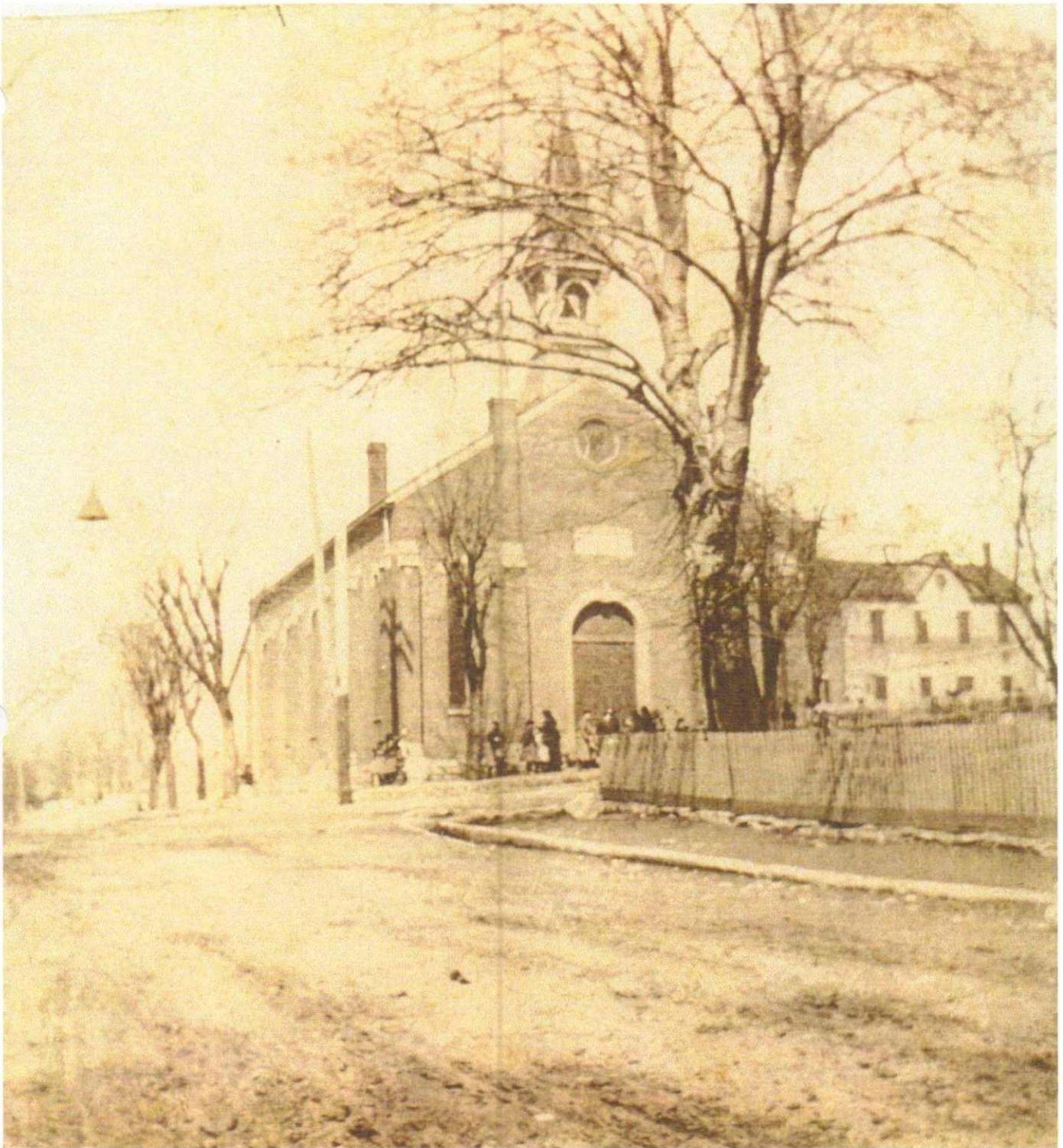
The Cynthiana Democrat is planning to publish a book of Mr. Cromwell's columns from 1928-1940. The book, edited by William A. Penn and George D. Slade, will be about 200 pages, including over ten pages of photographs, and an index. Mr. Cromwell wrote about Cynthiana history and included many reminiscences of growing up on a farm after the Civil War and of interesting persons he met while working at the National Bank, and later, as mayor. All profits will go to the Cynthiana-Harrison Co. Museum. Watch for ads in the Democrat.

### **Genealogy Queries**

**McKee** - I am looking for information on James McKee, who purchased 208.5 acres in Harrison Co. from John McDougal in 1800, and sold the last parcel, 78.5 acres to John Clifford in 1835. James was brother to William and David McKee; the three bought adjoining parcels in 1800. Have information on William and David McKee lines, but need information of James, his wife and descendants. David R. Hoffman, PO 247, Harrisburg, PA 17108; email [traugott@epix.net](mailto:traugott@epix.net).

**Cooper/Bell** - I am looking for information on Conley or Bell family of Cynthiana, Ky. Josephine Conley md. Peter Hill and lived in Shelby/Rush Co., Ind. area. Her mother may have md. to two different Conley brothers and later to Bell (Wm.?) Josephine's brother; Julius and two sisters - one sister md. to doctor, son Gussie and twin daughters. Katrina Cooper, 10019 Gate Dr., Indianapolis, In 46239 email [cooperfamily01@yahoo.com](mailto:cooperfamily01@yahoo.com).

Send queries to: William A. Penn, 423 Mill Road Pl., Midway, KY 40347, or email [hmms@att.net](mailto:hmms@att.net).



In 1870 the Methodist Church in Cynthiana built this structure, the third church on the site, at the corner of Church and Pike Streets. The present First United Methodist Church replaced this one in 1905. Photo c. 1890, courtesy Cynthiana- Harrison County Museum.