

# Harrison Heritage News

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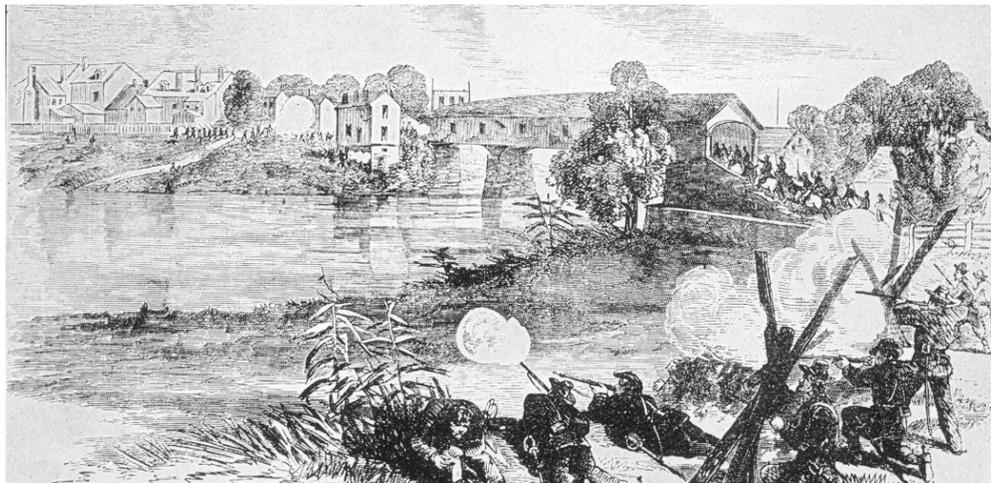
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## AFTER THE BATTLES OF CYNTHIANA: NATIONAL REACTION TO MORGAN'S TWO RAIDS

Bill Penn



(Above) The First Battle of Cynthiana—July 17, 1862—was featured in a prominent New York newspaper, *Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, on August 16, 1862. The artist apparently visited Cynthiana at some point after Morgan's raid and made this sketch. The bridge is accurately rendered, and the rear of the building on Main Street in the upper-left corner with a dormer on the roof is similar to the view today. The high banks along the river are also typical of the scene as can be seen today. This print would be an informative addition to an interpretive sign placed where visitors could compare it to the actual scene from the same perspective as the artist. (Author's collection).

*After Morgan's Raiders left Cynthiana in each of their two raids—July 17, 1862 and June 11-12, 1864—newspapers across the state and nation contained reports of battle. The following is excerpted from my book, Rattling Spurs and Broad-Brimmed Hats (1995), which is currently being revised for re-printing in 2006.*

**[After the First Battle of Cynthiana].** The Union press predictably characterized Morgan's raiders as robbers and guerillas. The *New York Tribune* printed a report from Lexington of Morgan's Kentucky raid on the front page, which

included headlines about the "disaster" at Cynthiana: "The place is one of great importance. It is located on the railroad leading from Cincinnati to this place, and there are several bridges in the vicinity, the destruction of which will interrupt communication for a week at least." A related story reprinted from the *Louisville Journal* characterized Morgan's raid as a failure: "He and his men proudly rely upon their own right arms for stealing, and upon their stolen horses' legs to bear them out of reach of retribution....His mis-

*(Continued on page 3)*

## President's Corner

Bob Owen

I have been hearing from new members who have recently joined the Society. It is good to hear that more people of the community are joining us. I have urged these new members to bring others into the fold and to bring themselves and guests to our meetings.

I ask all the current members to do the same. Growth in the membership is important to the Society and to the community.

I thank our Vice President Billy Fowler for running last month's meeting in my absence. One of the items for this month's agenda will concern the raising of the dues. This will allow us to cover the cost of mailing the newsletters and to support worthwhile local endeavors. We are considering annual dues of \$10 per individual or \$15 per family (when two or more members of a family want to be members). This equates to about a dollar per month or per newsletter. Please be prepared to discuss and vote on this at the August meeting.

I have been receiving emails from people inquiring about relatives who resided in Harrison County. I have been able to redirect these to members who can respond to those inquiries. We will be posting some of the inquiries in the newsletter in hopes that members or others who read the newsletter can be of assistance. Join us at our Society tent Aug. 20-21 Battle of Cynthiana.

## Harrison County Historical Society

Bob Owen, President  
Billy Fowler, Vice President  
Janie Whitehead, Secretary

### Meeting Notes—July 21, 2005

Old Business—The members discussed a possible dues increase and a memorial to the late George Slade. The Museum is having an anniversary the weekend of July 22-23.

Program—Mr. Don Lee, with the Ruddle's and Martin's Station Historical Association made a talk on his organization and its efforts to preserve the history of these two important pioneer stockades. He said the King's 8th Regiment re-enactors may attend next year, who portray the British regiment under Bird who captured Ruddle's Stations along with a contingent of American Indians. Mr. Lee said that President George W. Bush is a descendant of the settlers of these two stations. The annual meeting of the Association usually falls on the last Saturday of June—the same day as the CHS reunion, and is held at the site of Ruddle's Station. (Submitted by Billy Fowler).

### Calendar of Upcoming Events and Historical Society Meeting Speakers

August 18—Historical Society Meeting—Charlene Wilson will present the results of her research on Harrison County's one-room schools.

August 19-21—Battle of Cynthiana Reenactment—Elk's Club Farm, Oddville Pike. Reenactment each afternoon.

September 15—Historical Society Meeting—Jill Morgan with Purple House Press, will talk about her company which publishes out-of-print children's books. She will bring samples of her publications.

All historical society meetings are at 7 p.m. at the Cynthiana public library, Main Street; enter from the City Hall parking lot in rear.

## Cynthiana-Harrison County Museum

112 S. Walnut St., Cynthiana, Ky. 41031  
Hrs: 10-5 Fri-Sat  
Martha Barnes, President

### William B. Jones Civil War Letters 7th Ohio Volunteer Cavalry

As the awareness of the significance of the Civil War in our community continues to grow so does the Civil War exhibit in the Cynthiana-Harrison County Museum. Since the beginnings of the museum, citizens have contributed to our military displays particularly items related to the Civil War. Captain James Wilson's uniform and sword, cannonballs, bullets, a bayonet scabbard found in the courthouse clock tower, pictures, books, covered bridge models, and Lincoln items add to the importance of the displays.

The most recent and impressive Civil War acquisition is a set of 103 letters donated by Bobby Jones of Falmouth and his sister, Joanne Whiteker of Lexington. The letters were written by William B. Jones who was born January 3, 1821 in Brooklyn, Kentucky (northern Kentucky). The first 12 letters were courtship letters to Mary B. Phillips of Oddville. He wrote the letters to convince her to marry him. They married on February 16, 1861, and they settled in Harrison County.

Jones enlisted in the 7th Ohio Volunteer Cavalry on September 1, 1862. The rest of the letters are accounts of his war-related activities while serving in the Union Army. Letters are written from Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, Maryland, Florida, and Ohio. Jones was captured twice by Confederate forces and was imprisoned at Andersonville. In addition, the envelopes and stationery are printed with Union flags and other patriotic symbols.

The first letter is dated March 12, 1860, and the last is dated September 3, 1865. William Jones died in 1866.

Thanks to Larry Moss and his friendship with Bobby Jones and thanks to Harold Slade and his family. The interesting display contains copies of the letters, pictures of William and Mary Jones, his Bible, and copies of *Andersonville-A story of a Rebel Prison*. The letters are typed and photocopied. Visitors are encouraged to take some time to visit the museum and read the copies of these extraordinary letters.

(AFTER THE BATTLES-Penn—Continued from page 1)

erable failure, like the skin of a crow nailed to a post in a corn-field, is likely to warn off all other creatures of his class.”

A Louisville newspaper joked, “Why is Johnny Morgan like a friend asking you to drink a second time? Because he is re-treating.” *Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, on August 16, 1862, included a drawing depicting Morgan's men charging over the covered bridge at Cynthiana and another illustration of the raiders camping on the Paris, Kentucky, courthouse yard, which points out how newsworthy the raid had become in the North. Since the scenes are accurately portrayed, the artist must have been promptly dispatched to Kentucky and the pictures rushed to the printer in New York within a month of the battle.

In contrast to the New York newspapers, the Richmond, Virginia, press cheered Morgan. Southerners viewed the Kentucky raid of John Hunt Morgan as a dashing military success, which they especially relished because a major Northern city, Cincinnati, was made vulnerable. Also, the raid's achievements and resulting favorable publicity in the South gave much personal satisfaction to Morgan. A historian has noted, however, that the threat against Cincinnati applauded in Richmond “played into the hands of Unionists who favored a vigorous war policy” and further justified calls for additional troops in Ohio. (Continued next column on right)

## BATTLE OF CYNTHIANA REENACTMENT AUGUST 19-21, 2005

### Historical Society Will Have A Tent This Year

The Battle of Cynthiana reenactment has been moved up to August to avoid conflicts with other such events in the region. The beautiful Elk's Club grounds on the Oddville Pike will again be the site in 2005. Visitors can see an authentic Civil War camp and witness thrilling daily reenactments in early afternoon by actors in period uniforms. Sutlers will be on hand selling reproduction period clothing and accessories. Bring the whole family.

This year the Harrison County Historical Society/Cynthiana-Harrison County Museum will have a joint tent selling books and signing up new members. We welcome members to visit our tent and help in this outreach to the community.

### [After the Second Battle of Cynthiana]

Burbridge's victory over Morgan prompted a message from President Lincoln on June 14, 1864: “Have just received your dispatch of action at Cynthiana. Please accept my congratulations and thanks for yourself.” For repulsing Morgan from the state, Burbridge was awarded the brevet of Major General on July 4, 1864. In contrast to the accolades from Lincoln, the Confederate high command denounced Morgan's raid, mainly because they had originally wanted him to defend southwest Virginia, the location of important lead mines and saltworks.

The news of Morgan's defeat at Cynthiana spread rapidly in the press. One newspaper, the *New York Herald*, June 15, 1864, proclaimed, “The Rout of Morgan in Kentucky—The Rebel Raiders Scattered, Demoralized and Out of Ammunition.” The *Lexington Observer and Reporter* printed a lengthy account of the battle on June 18, 1864, including articles reprinted from Cincinnati newspapers. The *Cincinnati Daily Gazette* dispatched a reporter to Cynthiana with the 168th Ohio, and the *Cincinnati Daily Commercial* wrote extensively of Morgan's raid through Harrison County. Edmund Wood contributed a detailed article about the June 12 battle to the *Gazette* when he returned to Cincinnati.

In researching Cynthiana during the Civil War I was surprised to see our little battle covered by both Cincinnati and New York newspapers. And even President Lincoln heard of Morgan's defeat, and quickly sent congratulations to Burbridge. At this point in the war Lincoln was disappointed in the Union war effort and rewarded Union victories with praise and promotions. I still find it remarkable that the accurate woodcut showing Morgan's Raiders attacking Cynthiana in Leslie's *Illustrated* was created and published in New York, thus giving us the only period illustration of a Civil War battle in Cynthiana.

### RAILROADS IN HARRISON COUNTY, KY. BY GEORGE D. SLADE

Now Available at:

The Gourd Patch, 120 S. Main, Cynthiana,  
phone 235-0050 \$15/ea.

For mail order—or in-store sales:

Historic Midway Museum Store, 859-846-4214  
PO Box 4592, Midway, KY, 40347 \$18.90 each  
including shipping. Order e-mail:  
pennwma@aol.com.

## A CIVIL WAR LETTER: AFTERMATH OF MORGAN'S FIRST CYNTHIANA RAID

EDITED BY BILL PENN

**Introduction:** *The following letter was recently submitted to the Harrison County Historical Society President Bob Owen by Charles and Cynthia Webb, Batavia Illinois. This letter was written by William H. and Elizabeth A. Stewart, who were Union supporters, to John Taylor Webb and his wife Jane McClintock Webb. The letter was written soon after the First Battle of Cynthiana, which took place on July 17, 1862, between Morgan's Raiders and a small contingent of Federal soldiers and Home Guards under Col. John J. Landram. According to the Harrison County, Ky., 1860 US Census, the Stewart family comprised W. H. Stewart, 35, farmer, born in Ky.; Elizabeth A., 35, John T., 11, James N., 7, Charles H., 5 and Sarah E., 2. (The letter has been slightly shortened leaving out some family discussions not related to the Civil War. I have added annotations in brackets)*

August the 3<sup>rd</sup>/62

J. T. Webb and J. M. Webb, dear Brother and Sister:

Through great mercy our lives are spared to behold the light and beauties of another Sabbath morning. Once more permitted to communicate a few words to you and family....

My bro[ther], the time before the last I said to you that wee preferred not writing to you anymore on the subject of this unholy strife. But circumstances has occurred in our state since that time that wee feel it our duty to tell you the truth. As wee know that you are anxious to hear from your native state, feeling assured that you cannot get truth through the papers. But I confess to you, that wee cannot tell you how bad thing[s] are here now. On the 17<sup>th</sup> day of July at 5 o'clock in the evening, Morgan and his clan, 2800 [actually 875] in number, of cut throats and highway robbers in their thieving design, made their appearance in Cynthiana. The home guards, three hundred strong, had been engaged some 7 day(s) and nights trying to guard their town and homes. Against those guilerband [guerrilla band] wee had heard that Morgan was in KY. Wee all knew his character. His fame in robbery travails faster than he. I was in Cynthiana in time of the battle, but not engaged in the battle, but seen nearly all the fight. Morgan brought in the fight 1400 hundred of his men and two pieces of artillery, left the remaining 1400 hundred one mile out of town. [Morgan left only one company detached duty] Morgan's forces come in upon us in four direction. Our home guards, three hundred strong, fought them well and hard for one hour and 20 minutes. Finally was compelled to surrender to a set or band of robbers. Morgan took 200 of our home guards prisoner and one hundred of the citizens prisoners. I was one of that number.

When our men surrendered to Morgan, he took them upstairs in the courthouse. So, soon as the battle was over, I was sheltered in brother Newton(s) house. I asked him to bring in one of the officers so that I might get a pass to go home. Capt. Allen of Georgia, he promised he a permit in four hours to go home. But in less than one hour some evil person reported me and they took me a prisoner at 7 o'clock the same evening and kept me 'til next day at 12 o'clock. They paroled me on honor. I got to my family at two o'clock. My family heard that I was killed. They were distressed almost to death. I stayed with them some two hours and returned to Cynthiana after cousin Layfayett Wilson, captain of the home guard company from Scott's station who was killed while giving command. Morgan's men killed 60 of our men, wounded 20. Our forces killed 90 of Morgan's men and wounded a great many. There may be many others killed that has not been found. Morgan stole some four hundred horses, broke open and pilfered wherever they thought they could get anything, burned up bridges and all the government property that was in Cynthiana. Burned up the depot and four [railroad] cars. They left Cynthiana the next day after their arrival. Some of Morgan's men went out in the country some four mile and mistreated men and insulted nice, virtuous womans. This is a short sketch of Morgan's men at and near Cynthiana, of their outrageous acts. I could tell you much more but these are the main features.

Morgan left Cynthiana for Paris. There he met with Col. Metcaf [Col. Leonidas Metcalfe] forces and

*(Continued on page 5)*

*(CIVIL WAR LETTER—Continued from page 4)*

was compelled to make his way out of KY as best he could by losing a great [number] of his horses and several of his men. Great excitement prevails in our state at this time. General preparation are making for the defense of KY. The loyal citizens are determined to remain loyal to the government and oppose the southern Confederacy, believing it all a humbug and cannot stand the test. I hope she will fall and then very soon, and the consequences fall on those that are guilty. Be the result what it may. They are determined to throw the war in KY if they can but they will be sadly mistaken I hope. I want this war to stop and I try to pray for peace. Both parties are doing wrong. Col. Metcaff is collecting money off the southern rite [Southern Rights] party to pay the damage that war done by Morgan, and will soon have one hundred thousand dollars collected which is one third of the damage. Innocent men will have to suffer on the account of Morgan coming into KY. I would give you a full account but our sheet is nigh filled. The season is very dry and hot. The relations are all well but in great distress. In the close, we ask you to write so soon as you get this. We're are anxious to hear from you. This may be the last sheet that ever we'll write to you. The Lord only knows. Oh Lord, have mercy on us and save us in this trying hour.

Resp.  
William H. Stewart  
Elizabeth A. Stewart

## HARRISON COUNTY GENEALOGY QUERIES

**LONG/CONWAY**—I am trying to piece together information regarding Rhonda Long. From what I understand she was the daughter of Mary Conway and John W. Long. B. 29 Jul 1779. I have found information stating that she was taken captive along with her parents at Ruddle's Station. She must have been about a year old, and that she would be the grand daughter of John Conway Sr and Elizabeth Bridgewater Conway. I find lots of interesting information regarding John & Elizabeth Conway, including a list of children, but Mary is not listed. Is it because she was married at the time of the raid? I would like to know more about Rhonda and her parents. My decadency: John Conway-Elizabeth Bridgewater/Mary Conway-John Long/Rhonda Long-Robert Ground/John Ground-Elizabeth Ann Doty/Margaret Ground-Joseph Fildes/Delilah Wiley-Jesse Fildes/Bessie Kerfoot-Emile Fildes/Wanda Fildes-Eddie Stachura/Toni Stachura-Paul Peterson. Toni Peterson. e-mail, [toni.peterson@lpl.com](mailto:toni.peterson@lpl.com).

**RUDELL**—I am trying to find the father of my ancestor, William Henry Ruddell, b. 1805 TN, d. 1859, KY. I have found information that shows William's parents were Stephen and Sarah Ruddell. Anyone have any information on which Stephen and Sarah Ruddell could be William's father? If I can find a connection between William, Stephen and Isaac, or one of the brothers, then perhaps I may be connected to Ruddles Fort. e-mail Janette Birch [jtbirch@comcast.net](mailto:jtbirch@comcast.net)

**BAKER**—I am seeking any information on the family of Andrew Baker listed on the roster of men at Ruddles Station. Does anyone have knowledge of his service and what happened to him? Also seeking information as to the area where these men in Ruddle's Station came from. Be glad to share any information that I have on the Baker family. Sherry Lynn Baker Frazier President, Owsley County History and Genealogy Society <http://owsleykyhist.org>

## Harrison County, Kentucky, Historical Publications

available from Cynthiana-Harrison County Museum, 112 South Walnut Street,  
P.O. Box 411, Cynthiana, KY 41031 (859-234-7179); open Fridays and  
Saturdays 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.
- June 1896 *Cynthiana Democrat* reprint. This was a special edition with biographical sketches and photographs of prominent men and women; many photographs of buildings; city/county government, church and school information is included. 24 pp. Paperback, 12"x18". \$5.00
- *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* (William A. Penn). 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
- *Writings of Colonel William M. Moore, (1837-1927)* compiled by Andrew B. "Andy" Peak (2002). Includes 1921-1922 articles he wrote for the *Cynthiana Democrat* about his life. He was born in Harrison Co., but his family soon moved to Lewis Co., Mo.; in 1849 he moved back to Harrison Co., and he wrote much about life in Cynthiana in the early 1850s; he joined the CSA army in 1861 and fought in battles at Lexington, Mo.; Pea Ridge, Arkansas; and Shiloh, Tenn. The book includes several family obituaries and two letters that contain Moore genealogy. 10 family photographs; index; paperback, 71 pp. \$10.00/ \$3.00 shipping. Limited supply.
- *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 (An index is available for earlier editions, which had no index).
- *Cromwell's Comments*, by John M. Cromwell (1862-1951) is a reprint of Cromwell's 1928-1941 *Cynthiana Democrat* columns on the history of Cynthiana (Harrison Co., KY). A fine writer and historian, Mr. Cromwell covered many topics, including fairs, horses, fires, churches, businesses, cemeteries, government, Civil War, social events, and the Licking River. Sometimes he quoted old county histories, updated the information, and then added his personal reminiscences of interesting personalities from his career as banker and mayor. William A. Penn and George D. Slade, editors. Paperback; preface; 2 maps; 21 photos; 4 illus.; annotated; index; 200 pp. (*Cynthiana Democrat*, 2002), \$10 plus \$3 shipping.

Shipping/handling for above books: Please include a handling and shipping fee of \$4.00 for first book (unless otherwise noted above), \$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/money orders payable to "Cynthiana-Harrison County Museum." No credit cards. Prices/fees subject to change.

### RAILROADS IN HARRISON COUNTY, KY

*Railroads in Harrison County, Kentucky* by George D. Slade. This book traces the building of the Covington & Lexington Railroad through the county; the barbecue celebrating the arrival of the tracks to Cynthiana; L&N's development and the county depots and bridges; Southern Railroad in the county; the role of the county's railroad in the Civil War, W.W. I and W.W.II.; "railroad people" Mr. Slade knew growing up in the 1920s and '30s; rail crossings safety issues; many illustrations including photos and floor plans of Harrison County depots; photos of bridges; historic photos of railroad scenes, section crews, excursion ads, and vintage maps. 82 pages, introduction, endnotes. Paperback, TO ORDER BY MAIL: second printing of fifty published by the Historic Midway Museum Store, 124 E. Railroad St., Midway, KY, 40347; \$15.90 each plus \$3 shipping/call for shipping on multiple copies. E-mail pennwma@aol.com or call 859-846-4214. Also available at this Cynthiana location: The Gourd Patch, 120 S. Main, Cynthiana, Ky. 859-235-0050 (no mail orders this location).