

Harrison Heritage News

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www.harrisoncountyky.us/historical-society

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Last Cumulative Index: See
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archived newsletters

Harrison County's Lost Buildings



Harrison Motor Company stood for many years at this prominent intersection where Main and Bridge streets meet. During horse and buggy days, livery stables were located near here, where travelers entered Cynthiana on the old covered bridge. Photo, looking east, 1983, Bill Penn.

The Junk Harvest of 1942 and Harrison County's Memorial to World War I

Philip Naff

On the southeast corner of the Harrison County courthouse lawn is a monument erected by the Stephen B. Whalen Post (No. 27) of the American Legion. It was placed there on November 11, 1942, the 24th anniversary of the Armistice that ended the "war to end all wars," later known as the "Great War," known today as World War I. The war ended on November 11, 1918 and has been commemorated ever since as Armistice or Veterans Day.

One would think that it was simply a tide of patriotism and sentimentality

that must have made 1942 seem a fitting time to commemorate those who died in America's first world war just as the country was about to finish a full year of combat in a second war. Add practicality and necessity, and all the ingredients were there for the "Junk Harvest" of 1942, which would eventually give rise to the virtual crop of monuments and memorials one can see on or near the courthouse lawn today.

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President's Corner

Bob Owen

We had a good meeting this last month with the presentation by Ms. Pamela Ward, of the Friends of Griffith Woods. It was interesting to see the fate of the Tavern is still up in the air. The Friends are hoping to soon get the roof covered with tarps to reduce the possibility of additional water damage. They are also looking for volunteers to assist in upkeep of the grounds.

On Sunday, November 5th, the Cynthiana-Harrison County Arts Council sponsored an Autumn Afternoon session in which Edward Smith, Kentucky Humanities Council Chautauqua, was the featured speaker and did a presentation as Adolph Rupp, The Coach. A 170 people attended and agreed that Mr. Smith was accurate and entertaining. This is part of an effort to bring the arts back to Cynthiana and Harrison County.

Remember, our next meeting will be on November 16th at the Cynthiana-Harrison County Library. The presenter for that meeting will be Philip Naff, who will do a Harrison County Genealogy workshop. Be sure and put this on your calendar and bring your friends. We want a good turnout.

Don't forget the December Holiday potluck dinner/meeting, scheduled for 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 5th at the Methodist Church basement community room. We had a great time last year and I encourage everyone to come and partake.

Harrison County Historical Society

Bob Owen, President
Billy Fowler, Vice President
Janie Whitehead, Secretary
Dorothy Slade, Treasurer

October 19th meeting notes:

President Bob Owen recommends members join the Kentucky Historical Society. He offered congratulations to the museum on the progress being made at the annex expansion. Harold Slade said the move into the new space will not happen this year. A motion by Billy Fowler was carried to send a letter to Fiscal Court and City Commission recommending preservation of the Handy House and Barns. Bob Owen has found a newspaper article from the late 1920's when Clarence LeBus owned the Handy Farm. LeBus was proposing turning the property into a country club and golf course. Bob said Mr. LeBus died a few months later and he suspects that is the reason that nothing happened with the proposal. Dorothy and Harold received a request from a person seeking information about her grandfather's grave at the Licking Valley Cottages (poor farm). Dorothy was able to look in George Slade's files and also get information from Jim Swinford of the Boy Scouts to help find the location of the grave.

Program: Pamela Wood of Friends of Griffith Woods made an excellent and well received presentation on the status of the restoration of both the woods and the tavern. They have a lot of work ahead of them, but also have a dedicated team working for a common goal. They request help and ideas from the community. To join or offer help drop a note in the mail to Friends of Griffith Woods, P.O. Box 22044, Lexington, KY 40522-2044 or e-mail maestroboyer@aol.com or call Julian Campbell @ 859-229-7711. [Billy Fowler]

Upcoming Harrison County Historical Society Programs

November 16—Workshop on Harrison County Genealogy—Phillip Naff with others to be announced.

December 5—Joint potluck with Harrison Co. Museum, Tuesday at 6:00 pm at the Cynthiana Methodist Church. Sign up at the museum for potluck.

Cynthiana-Harrison County Museum

112 S. Walnut St., Cynthiana, Ky. 41031

Hrs: 10-5 Fri-Sat

Martha Barnes, President

Freedom Isn't Free

While choosing my quotes for this Veterans Day week of Museum Musings, I found this quote (attributed to no particular author, but I can imagine many who may have made this statement) - "I thought of all the children, of the mothers and the wives, of fathers, sons, and husbands with interrupted lives. I thought about a graveyard at the bottom of the sea, of unmarked graves in Arlington. No, freedom isn't free."

At the museum - the Cynthiana-Harrison County Museum - we have endeavored to give honor to those who have given so much to protect our country and our freedom. One significant recognition of our community's veterans is a huge compilation of stories and picture. Several tirelessly worked to gather this information. A three-ring-binder is entitled "Stories from the Past - Military Memories of Harrison County Veterans." Naturally, it is not all inclusive - and there are many Harrison Countians whose stories are not recorded. Do you know of a veteran - of any war - and his/her story? Hopefully, when we make our total move to the theatre building, we can have a place more conducive to reading and perusing books such as this tribute to our veterans. (Love your grass skirt, Mr. T.)

A special World War II exhibit offers tribute to all veterans. Displayed are mannequins in uniform with pictures and information. Those represented are Marines Lark K. Box and Gene D. Miner, WASP Esther Ammerman, Navy Harlan Kaufman, First Lt. Charlotte Jean Webber, and Army S/Sgt. Harold Slade. Many have contributed to this display. Among more recent items given to the museum are a Japanese flag and a German Nazi flag.

Items from different wars are on display - everything from gas masks, mess kits, medals, letters, ration books, etc. etc. to many photos and posters. Our most recent acquisition is a World War II card regarding the funeral of Lt. Alex E. Johnson, Jr.. This truly is an amazing story in that this card made its way to our museum. In 1941 Alex Jones of Louisville was Harold Slade's AntiTank Company's supply sergeant. Harold has since learned that Johnson had died as a prisoner of war. Where has this little card been for all these years and how did it make its way to the Cynthiana-Harrison County Museum?

A veteran surely said, "We went...we didn't ask why; our country called....and we were proud."

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The Howitzer

Actually, the present monument to World War I wasn't the first effort to commemorate the memory of those lost in the war; the option of erecting a monument on the courthouse lawn had been virtually ruled out from the beginning as a suitable commemoration. Just months after the war's end, a memorial committee was formed to decide on a fitting monument to "do honor to our boys who will never return, as well as honor all those who offered their lives in behalf of their country, whether in training camp, on the sea, or 'over there,' and did come back."

The May 15, 1919, issue of the *Democrat* noted that "several forms of memorial had been suggested



Howitzer in the Harrison County courthouse yard. Postcard ca. 1930, courtesy of Charles Feix.

to the members, including the erection of an auditorium or a public assembly hall, a memorial hospital, a monument, an arch, etc. Discussion developed the fact that the committee was not disposed to consider anything in cold stone or steel having in mind the usual fate of such memorials in small communities. For a few years, perhaps, the monument or arch would be respected, but after a time interest would flag, disintegration would set in, and it would be difficult to preserve the memorial in presentable form."

Members of the committee recalled the experience with the Mexican War monument. Originally it had been placed in the yard of the courthouse, yet, as memories faded, "it began to be abused, small boys even throwing stones at it, and to preserve it at all the monument was removed to Battle Grove cemetery, where it stands today a sad reminder of a republic's ingratitude rather than an object of reverence and adoration."

In the end, popular sentiment was won over for the effort to build a new hospital, but a lone German howitzer, captured by the American Expeditionary Forces during the war, was placed behind the iron fence on

the southeast corner of the courthouse lawn and served as a reminder of the sacrifices made by the county in 1917 and 1918.

The Harvest

The attack at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 brought America into the wars in the Pacific and Europe, which had been raging since the mid-to-late 1930s. By the fall of 1942 the Axis sphere of influence was perhaps at its greatest extent, with Nazi armies dominating most of North Africa and Europe, and the fall of Stalingrad was imminent. The Japanese had taken the Philippines and Burma, but had just recently been repulsed by American forces at the Battle of Midway. While the first waves of American troops were already on their way to Europe and the Pacific, many more millions would go, and the metal to build everything from ships to carry them to the belt buckles to hold up their pants would be needed to supply the massive buildup for a successful war effort.

An "All-Out Kentucky Salvage Campaign" was announced in September and the Harrison County Salvage Committee set up "scrap headquarters" in the Harrison Hotel with a special phone line ("Dial 80") established for people to call to have a truck to come and pick up 500 pounds or more of scrap. The drive was on for October 12, 1942, through the 31st, with a big rally set to celebrate its success on the 31st. One-and-half million pounds was the quota set for the drive, or "just" one hundred pounds of scrap per person, on average, in the county.

One of the first pieces to go was the old howitzer on the courthouse lawn. The 4,800-pound cannon was taken off of its concrete platform and trucked to the American Roller Mills at Ashland by the Lemmon Brothers, who purchased the gun, the proceeds of which were to be used for a new granite marker to replace the howitzer as a new memorial to World War I.

Although the drive didn't officially start until the



World War II scrap metal drive. Photo, 1942, *Pictorial History of Harrison County, Ky.*, courtesy of Cynthiana Democrat.

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12th, it was already well under way when the *Cynthiana Democrat* reported on the 15th that "everywhere one looked he saw scrap metal. Children with wagons, wheelbarrows, carrying in baskets, sacks; men in their own or borrowed trucks, jolt wagons pulled by two horses, passenger cars unloading precious metal, all joined to make a scene most pleasing to local citizens, but unpleasing to the Japs and Nazis."

A large pile of donated scrap started to grow on the lawn of the courthouse, where everything from a 1925 Cadillac to a tack could be found, including "antique kettles, oil and gas stoves, to say nothing of modernistic flower spray holders, spittoons, iron barrels, iron fences and what have you?" However, the growing pile presented its own possibilities to the thrifty and practical-minded as evidenced by the newspaper's warning "that there cannot be pieces exchanged for other useless articles as those who donated the junk expect it to be used in the war effort. Several articles have been missed and this is to notify those that take any article from the pile are liable to stand prosecution to the full extent of the law."

Iron fence clubs sprouted up in small towns all over Harrison County, but it was reported that "many citizens . . . refuse to let their own fences go until the court house fence goes down first." Some didn't wait for the fiscal court to make up its mind about the courthouse's own fence. The October 22nd edition of the *Democrat* reported that "we know of two Cynthiana neighbors who several months ago decided to buy some old iron fence and erect a line fence between their property that would stand for many years. The weather grew warm and they put off the fence building. Then came the fall and the scrap drive. They had paid \$12.10 for the fence and the work of digging it up. Monday they decided the war effort needed the fence more than they did and hauled it to market and sold it for \$5.80, after adding several other metal pieces to bring the total weight to more than 1,100 pounds. Each had a net loss of \$3.15. You who will take no loss on donating or selling your iron fences, can you match this?"

Little pieces of history, big and small, personal and public, made their way into the scrap heaps. Jake Goldberg donated his father's old K.P. [Knights of Pythias] Uniform Rank sword, and it was noted that the "steel in such things is the best attainable." Mrs. Pearl Miller turned in the iron steps and railing of the old National Bank Building before its renovation, with its "elaborate ornament of copper and zinc," which she had used to hold flowers in her garden.

When all was said and done, after all the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and school children had lugged their wagon loads, and the farmers and families volunteered what scrap metal they could, the drive ended up going "over the top" with a reported 1,663,037 pounds of scrap collected, 150,000 pounds more than hoped for, amounting to nearly 110 pounds per person.

Honoring the Veterans

On the 11th of November, 1942, the American Legion presided over ceremonies to dedicate the new World War I memorial, which were held after a parade through the city's streets by the Boy Scouts, Girls Scouts, 4-H Club members, led by the Cynthiana High School band. Mrs. Alfred Whalen, mother of Stephen B. Whalen, the first Harrison County boy to die in service during World War I, unveiled the monument, which was erected on the base where the old howitzer once stood.

No names of the Harrison County World War I veterans who died in service were engraved on the marker as is the tradition today. However, had their names been included, they would have appeared as follows: Cecil Cason, Howard Cooper, Herbert Crawford, Luther Debruler, John Fitzgerald, Emery Furguson, William D. Gardner, Orie C. Givens, John Goodnight, J. Quincey Jewett, Orville Jones, Dawson D. Lemons, Lonnie Mullins, John M. Parsons, Hervis H. Pulliam, Frazier Smith, James Harding Sparks, Stephen B. Whalen, Walter H. Williams, Claude D. Wilson, and Stephen Woodward.

As time passed and America's overseas obligations increased, involvement in wars after the dedication of the World War I monument have led to the need to memorialize those who died in their country's service during World War II, in Korea, Vietnam and other conflicts. Memorials, monuments, and plaques in and around the courthouse commemorate those from Harrison County who served and died in these wars and earlier ones. While the monument to the Mexican War veterans is still in Battle Grove Cemetery (where over a thousand veterans are interred), the fears of the World War I memorial committee have been proven unfounded. The public's current interest in monuments in the cemetery, such as in the renewed Confederate Monument and the Veterans Walk, and in those around the courthouse square, is evidence that they could never be considered "sad reminders of a republic's ingratitude," but instead serve as constant reminders of the "reverence and adoration" that Harrison County has for its military veterans.

(right) World War I memorial, Harrison County courthouse, Cynthiana, Ky.
Photo, 2006, Philip Naff.



Harrison County, Kentucky, Historical Publications

Books Are Welcomed Christmas Presents

available from Cynthiana-Harrison County Museum, 112 South Walnut Street, P.O. Box 411, Cynthiana, KY 41031 (859-234-7179);

- 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. 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. 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). 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, by George D. Slade. For availability and pricing, contact Bill Penn, Historic Midway Museum Store, 124 E. Railroad Street, Midway, KY 40347, 859-846-4214, or e-mail, pennwma@aol.com. Copies are being printed due by about December 1.

To read more about the memorials and monuments visit [http://www.harrisoncountyky.us/monuments/.](http://www.harrisoncountyky.us/monuments/)"

Harrison Genealogy Query

Lindsay—My great-great-great-grandfather David Lindsay signed the 1788 petition to build a tobacco warehouse near Isaac Ruddle's Mill (probably at Ruddle's Mills). Later, he had a farm on the old Ammerman place just northwest of Cynthiana. He died in 1814, and my great-great-grandfather John Lindsay and David's second wife, Agnes (Nancy) McNay were administrators of his estate. John Lindsay moved on to the Springfield, Illinois area and was an early settler there. I am seeking the name of David Lindsay's first wife. David was a close associate of Thomas Moore who married Mary Harrison, sister of Col. Benjamin Harrison, buried in the Lindsey-Moore Cemetery, near Poin-dexter. David was the first Harrison coroner (Perrin, 220) however his name is recorded as "Daniel," who I believe is the same person.

Bob Lindsay, Denver, Colorado
4r.lindsay@comcast.net

More on Barlow Knives

Bill Penn

An article in this newsletter, "The Barlow Knife—Once a Boy's Favorite" (Bill Penn, September 2006), documented the originator of the famous pocket knife as being England's Obadiah Barlow, in 1667.

Edson Barlow, in his Barlow genealogy Web site <http://www.barlowgenealogy.com/Edson/barlowknife.html>, noted that some believe Leason Barlow of Nicholas County, Ky., designed it and received a patent, but added: "I have been unable to find the patent records...cited."

Even if an American patent was granted for a Barlow design, this does not invalidate the fact that Obadiah Barlow invented it in England, where it was produced a hundred years earlier.



Barlow pattern by John Russell Cutlery Co., ca. 1925.