



Harrison Heritage News

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Our 25th Year

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Literature of the Licking

Reminiscences of Lewis Cass Woolery of Antioch Mills, Ky.

Edited and Introduction by Philip Naff

Who, When, Where . . . and Why?

In the search for a history of a pioneer family, the most basic questions to ask are who, when, and where . . . who are the ancestors I am looking for, when did they live, and where did they live? Most of these questions are fairly easy to answer, usually after "some time" behind a microfilm reader! After "where?" the most logical question to ask is "why?" Why did they live where they chose to live, what brought them to Kentucky, and to Harrison County in particular, during the earliest days of Kentucky's settlement and, perhaps, did they have any regrets about their choices? The answer to "why" is perhaps one of the most elusive, inviting a lot of speculation at times, but authors and writers who grew up or lived in Harrison County in earlier decades and centuries past have helped to provide some answers.

The Richland Creek area, in the northernmost part of the county, was reportedly visited by some of the earliest and most famous settlers of pioneer Kentucky. William H. Perrin's 1882 accounting of the history of Richland Precinct records that *"it is not known of a certainty at the present day who was the first white man to settle in what is now Richland Precinct. Robert Scott and William Stuart are supposed to have been among the first, if not the very first. They both planted orchards at a very early day, trees of which are still standing, and are bearing fruit . . . It is told of Simon Kenton, the pioneer and great Indian fighter, that he has often helped to make cider in*



William Henry Woolery (b. Oct. 26, 1850;- d. July 30, 1889). W.H. Woolery's short life filled out the pages of a biography lovingly written by his brother in the late 1800s, a volume which contains valuable information for anyone studying the history of Antioch Mills, Kentucky, whether you are student of local history or researching the genealogy of the Woolery and Cleveland families.

the orchard of William Stuart. It was also visited, when in early bearing by Daniel Boone."

It is not far away from these orchards that Antioch Mills is situated, the earliest origins of which are

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President's Corner Bob Owen

The Historical Society and Museum groups had another terrific potluck dinner on Tuesday, December 5th at the Methodist Church basement community room. We enjoyed Christmas music and delicious food. [See photos, p. 2] My thanks to all those who set the room up and provided the excellent food. For those who were unable to make it, be sure and put it on your calendar for next year.

On February 17th, the Northern Kentucky Historical Society will host its annual History Day at Northern Kentucky University in Highland Heights. Philip Naff and Bill Penn will have a table there. From 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. there will be multiple scholarly presentations to choose from with an emphasis on Northern KY and the Ohio valley.

The January meeting will be show and tell and I have rediscovered that it is difficult to get the word out to our membership. We are looking for presenters for the coming months and I encourage you to assist us in finding presenters who will be of interest to all. This is your society and it needs your input.

The Handy House group continues to work on developing a viable use for the house once it is restored. This is key to its preservation. Marilyn Bell is the president and gets strong support from our own Sharon and Billy Fowler. They are looking for supporters and workers. Marilyn can be reached at 859-234-1311.

Harrison County Historical Society

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



Above—Scenes from the annual potluck Dec. 5th at the Methodist Church, jointly hosted by Harrison Co. Historical Society and Cynthiana—Harrison Co. Museum. Photos, Sharon Fowler.

Harrison History Calendar

January 18: HCHS Meeting: "Show and Tell" - bring something to show everyone.

February 15: HCHS Meeting: Bob Owen will discuss the Kentucky Military Institute

February 17—NKU History Day—Highland Heights—9-1 pm—HCHS will have table.

Cynthiana-Harrison County Museum

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

Hrs: 10-5 Fri-Sat

Martha Barnes, President

Wintertime Memories Warmed by Coal

Is it global warming or what? Lately, it seems that we all have heard or maybe some of us have said that winters are not like they used to be. Surely, our Kentucky December 2006 weather proved to be mild. During the grandchildren's Christmas break from school, we spent much time outside taking walks or playing on the hay rolls - all of us wearing lightweight jackets. The closest thing we saw to the white stuff was the sheet I draped at the base of the Christmas tree to simulate snow. Don't some of you still do that? Everyone surely does not have a fancy tree skirt.

During those wonderful days with the kids, we discussed times as they were in Grandmother and Granddaddy's childhood. I told them of the time when U.S. 62 West - the road to Leesburg and Georgetown - was so covered with snow there was no traffic - and we went sledding on that highway. Now, this highway is so heavily trafficked year round that I must bolster my courage and make certain my footing is steady before I cross to our mailbox.

One of our discussions involved heating, woodstoves, coal stoves, and coalhouses. Our fourth grader had learned about coal in her Kentucky studies. The younger boys did not understand coal. The P.J. of our Family Circus could not imagine why we had a "cold house." That coalhouse still stands in our yard - so we took a field trip to the coalhouse. Behold, beyond the creaky door and the cobwebs, there remained after 50 years small pieces of coal. The coal was delivered from a Cynthiana coal yard many years ago. Each of the four darlings took home Ziploc bags of coal on that particular day. Their parents were "delighted."

Those special times with grandchildren make the museum seem even more important and our efforts even more significant. Times surely change - we remember winters long ago - we learn from those times - we appreciate our heritage - we move forward.

Our museum's collection contains numerous reminders of winters past and how the citizenry fared. Among those items are photographs (my, those wonderful photos), quilts, a woodstove, ice skates, lanterns, hog killing paraphernalia, a coal stove, sleds, a popcorn popper (yes, kids you had to shake it), old radios, whiskey, books, a talking machine with records, implements to harvest ice, buggy robes, coal, a foot warmer, etc. etc.

Cherish yesterday, dream tomorrow, live today!

Members Membership Renewal Due

Don't forget to bring or send to Dorothy Slade, Treasurer, the Harrison County Historical Society's dues of \$12 per family. Or mail to address on page 1. Members receive this monthly newsletter and participate in monthly informative meetings.

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not clearly documented. However, Perrin notes that the first building erected was a blacksmith shop in 1867, with the town's construction beginning in 1878. No doubt the community takes its name from the Antioch Christian Church which was built there in 1848 and the many mills which dotted the landscape in the 19th century. Family homes, mostly log cabins, had been constructed decades before, with the log house of Joseph and Lydia (Fleming) Cummins sitting right on the Harrison County line with Pendleton's (One story has it that the boys were born in one county while the girls in the other, 13 in all, their "rooms" being at opposite ends of the house!). The Cummins were but one of the earliest families to settle there and to marry into the families of other early settlers; the names of other families whose names fill out the tombstones of Antioch Cemetery are Anderson, Bristow, Butcher, Collier, Elliott, Jolly, King, Simpson, and last but not least, Woolery.

Regrets?

John Ulerich (ca. 1755 - 1828), from whom the Woolerys are descended, was one of the earliest pioneers of the northern Harrison County area. It was said he *"moved from Pennsylvania to Bourbon County, Kentucky, when that garden spot was cheap. A large land owner offered him an acre apiece for himself and his six sons as daily wages, if he would settle in this county. But he had not crossed the mountains to this wild west for wealth, but for game. He told his landlord he could not settle there on those terms, for the settlers were already felling the forest for cultivation and frightening away the deer; and for this reason he would move down into the hills where the timber would never be cut down, and where hunting would always be interesting for himself and his boys."* Of German descent, one of his descendants would write that *"he was a funny Dutchman"* for this!

That descendant was Lewis Cass Woolery (1858-1900), a great-grandson, who, in 1893, wrote a 426-page biography of his oldest brother, William Henry Woolery, entitled *The Life and Addresses of W.H. Woolery, LL.D., Third President of Bethany College* (Cincinnati: The Standard Publishing Company, 1893). William had passed away only four years previously, and both were sons of James (1824-1901) and Sarah Ann (Cleveland) Woolery (1829-1900), who were said to have raised *"to maturity eight children, seven sons and one daughter, whose combined height was more than forty-seven feet, and whose combined weight was more than fifteen hundred pounds. Of the combined quality of this material it is beyond the power of mathematics to make a correct estimate!"*

Although a large portion of the book is about his brother's life at Bethany College and includes material on his brother's religious faith and the

school over which he presided, a good portion of the first chapters was devoted to the Woolery children's seemingly idyllic life growing up in and around the vicinity of Antioch Mills.

A genealogy of the Cleveland family records that L.C. Woolery remained on his father's farm until he was 20 years old. He later attended Hopedale Normal College and followed in his older brother's footsteps by graduating from Bethany College in Bethany, West Virginia with in June, 1894, receiving the first honor of the class (At least three of the seven Woolery brothers graduated from Bethany). L.C. Woolery then returned to Kentucky, where he studied and practiced law in Falmouth, in Pendleton County. He later became the principal of LaFayette College, in Higginsville, Missouri, and Professor Woolery returned to Bethany College where he was elected to the chair of Greek in Bethany College in 1887, which he still occupied at the time of his book's publication. On August 7, 1888 he was married to Miss Mattie Virginia Paul (1859-?) at Hopedale in Harrison County, Ohio.

L.C. Woolery barely survived his brother by four years, and died just seven years after the biography's publication. He died at his home in Morgantown, West Virginia, on June 25, 1900, survived by his widow and three children. The site of his grave is up on the hill at Antioch Mills, in the cemetery where many of his Woolery ancestors and the people of the community he wrote about so affectionately are buried.

If the Woolerys had any regrets about the choices of their ancestors, few expressions of it are to be found in the writings of Lewis Cass Woolery.

Excerpts

Rather than to rephrase and edit the story of the Woolery's early life in the post-bellum era along the northern border area of Harrison County along Richland and Snake Lick Creeks to fit into a new narrative, it was thought best, for the purposes of this article, to simply select a few portions for several topics for the reader to see for himself the charm, wit, and love of the country in which the Woolerys were raised as expressed by Lewis Cass Woolery.

Antioch

L.C. Woolery had but one regret, and that was that the family's home near Antioch was not *"in the renowned spot known as the Blue*

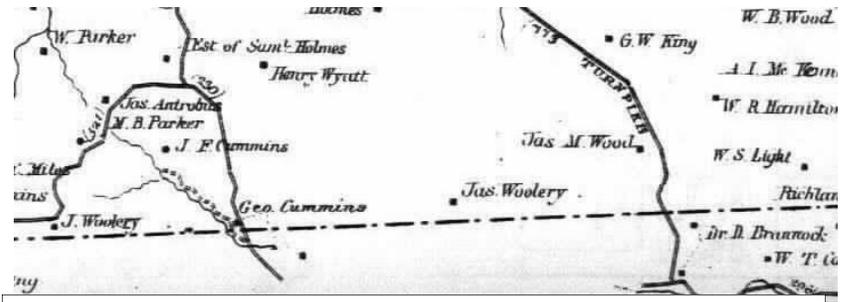
Grass Region of Kentucky, which has for its capital Lexington. This is a confession difficult to



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Antioch Mills, from Beers, 1877 map.



Pendleton Co. -Harrison Co. border showing location of Cummins and Woolery residences. From Lathrop and Summers, 1884 atlas.

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ring from a true Kentuckian. When you meet a Kentuckian and ask him what part of the state he is from, he, if his early education has been properly conducted, will answer forty, sixty, or a hundred miles north, east, south, or west of Lexington; just so of their ancestors, too. Ask a Virginian from what part of the state he hails. 'Near Richmond, Sir,' is the invariable reply. Richmond is near and dear to Virginians; likewise Lexington and the Blue Grass Region are to Kentuckians. But this home is situated in the hill country of Kentucky where people estimated a boy as highly as a colt. The good people of this country would never tolerate a whisky shop, and for years and years there has been no whisky sold nearer than six or eight miles to Antioch Mills. This village never can have liquor as a beverage sold in it. John Woolery sold most of the lots, and the deeds are so made that whenever a house is used for the sale of intoxicating liquors that lot reverts to his heirs. I have never heard of this being tried elsewhere. I think it is a very, commendable safeguard. On Sunday everybody goes to church in buggies, spring-wagons and on horseback, sometimes as many as three or four on one horse. It is not necessary for half of the family to stay at home to keep the house from running away. All go to church, young and old, and leave the house unlocked. I do not know whether my father ever had a key for his house or not; I never knew it to be locked.

Life in the Hills of Northern Harrison County

"After living on a hill for half a lifetime one is ill-suited to live in a

valley or on a prairie. How depressed it makes one feel to be hemmed in on all sides by hills and yet unable to see over them! But how it unburdened my feelings of depression to walk upon the precious old hill! How it seemed to free me and ease me! How much purer and lighter the atmosphere! A hill seems to be the best place to commune with nature and nature's God. Is it a matter for wonder that the Jews wanted to worship in high places? Jesus went out on the hills and prayed all night, as was his custom. A hill farm is a good place for a boy to grow up to manhood. Here he may establish a strong character shaped after nature, herself strong and virtuous, before he has heard that some evils, incident to city life, even exist. Some evils ought never to be spoken of two children, even if they are condemned in thunder tones. Many evils of this nature the farm boy escapes till his character is formed and fixed for life, if the proper home influences have been thrown about him in his formative age. A farm boy when taken to see a large city is observant and impressible. He gazes at everything because it is so uncommon, and remembers it because he gazes at it. This is the great secret of memory, gazing at an object until it is impressed indelibly. For this reason country boys are called green. But they can afford to be called green so long as they continue to furnish to the world a very large

per cent. more than their quota of great men. This farm was the scene of his [W.H. Woolery's] childhood, dearer to him than any other spot on earth. He always returned to it once a year to renew his boyhood acquaintances and visit his parents and walk the old haunts."

Civil War

"Once during the civil war, when I was a very small boy, I followed my father to the spot, a few steps from the house, where he was led by a band of a dozen soldiers to be shot, on the groundless charge of harboring Confederate officers on his premises. The soldier ordered to shoot him seemed to take aim for five minutes, perhaps for much less time; but he stood as firm as adamant, without the exhibition of any nervousness, with his left hand upon his beard, and looked into the muzzle of that angry, glittering musket, when a very light touch of the finger would have ushered him into eternity. An honest countenance puts to flight cowardice. He is not a man of wordy advice; his whole life is advice and prayer crystallized into action. The only word of advice to any of his children, when leaving home for college, that comes to my mind was: 'Never do any thing of which you will be ashamed.' That was a volume." [NOTE: The charges may have been groundless, but the Woolerys' sympathies are documented; L.C. Woolery's uncle, John Woolery, was killed at the Battle of Chickamauga, and L.C. Woolery's younger

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Photo is identified on the back "Sept. 22, 1934, Aunt Sally Cummins' Home, Antioch [sic] Ky." Joseph and Lydia (Fleming) Cummins once lived in this log residence located at Antioch Mills. The house stood on the Harrison-Pendleton line. Courtesy of Elsie Beckett.

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brother (b. June 21, 1861) was named Jefferson Davis Woolery.]

Education in the County after the Civil War

Of his brother, L.C. wrote that "he could never remember the time when he could not read" and gives an accounting of his brother's education in some of the most rural parts of the county. L.C. wrote that their father "taught him his A, B, C's from the capital letters in chapter heads of the New Testament which throughout life was his fondest study. Living a mile or more from the nearest school-house, his mother persuaded his cousin, James Woolery, Jr., by a few years his senior, to live with them for the purpose of accompanying Will to school. His father and mother were deeply concerned about his education. Fortunately they had a good teacher, Gideon Colvin. Mr. Colvin made for himself a considerable local reputation. He managed to keep his pupils very busy. If this was not possible by the influence of persuasion and love, it was always possible by force. He was the strictest disciplinarian that has never taught in that part of the country;

always rigidly exacting the strictest obedience to his rules, which were few. He was well grounded in the branches taught in the public schools and had some knowledge of Latin, and was possessed of a strong moral character. He had the entire confidence of his patrons, and developed the talent of the youth of the community more than most school teachers are wont to do. ... We had twenty-two weeks public school which was usually supplemented by a short spring term supported by subscription. He insisted on the teacher's taking the first two weeks, if necessary, to organize and put the school under the proper discipline, which was his well ridden hobby, and then teach the remaining twenty weeks; that it was a great time-saving method to have the school well organized. Under the instruction of his most competent teacher Will was placed at the early age of five. He had the rare advantage--a rare one it is--of the instruction and discipline of this good teacher for eleven years in succession. The structure of his future education was substan-

tial because it was founded on the bed-rock--a thorough common school education. It is a lamentable state of affairs that our country school-teachers can not be kept in the same place for a longer period. People do not think for a moment of charging their doctor for another once every year or so, about the time he fully understands the people of a community in their physical organization . . . But you can find a country teacher who has taught three years; it is still more difficult to find one who has taught five years; and next to impossible to find one who has taught ten years in the same country school. The hardest lesson the teacher has to learn is his pupil's mind. The longer he teaches him the better he knows him and the better he can teach him."

Learn More Online

If you care to learn more about the life in the country in late 19th century Harrison County, complete texts of the earliest chapters Lewis Cass Woolery's book have been posted online at <http://www.harrisoncountyky.us/communities/antioch-mills.htm>. Just scroll down and click on the link to the writings of Lewis Cass Woolery.

Many were the manuscripts and diaries which went unpublished during their lifetimes and even to this day, which are only now being uncovered by descendants and archivists and added to the virtual library that is the web. Whether you have an interest in Antioch or the Woolerys, such works are important in documenting a time and a way of life that is no more, but perhaps longed for now more than ever. If you should know of such a document that you would like to contribute for use at the Harrison County Historical Society's website, please contact the author.

Harrison Heritage News—Article Index for Vol. 7—2006

Vol. No. 1 (Jan.) - *Handy Farm Special Issue* - National Register Nomination and Farm History 1818-2005; farm and interior photos. (Fowler and Penn); Museum—*Reflections on Past Year* (Barnes)

Vol. 7 No. 2 (Feb) *Joseph Frazier, African American from Harrison County, Served on USS Benton in the Civil War* (Penn), *Thoughts on Winter* (Barnes), *Harrison County African American Marriage Records—Description and list up to 1865*; *Harrison County Civil War U. S. Colored Troops—names/units* (Feix).

Vol. 7 No. 3 (Mar) - *Chaos at Conrey—the Colemansville “Cyclone”* - (Naff); *Villages Represented in Museum Collection* (Barnes)

Vol. 7 No. 4 (Apr) *Cynthiana’s Old Jail—photo*; *Lincoln’s Connections to Cynthiana* (Penn); *4th Annual Raggedy Ann Festival* (Barnes); *Cynthiana Circa 1900 Being Reconstructed—model town/H. Slade photos*

Vol. 7 No. 5 (May) *Daniel Boone Surveyed in the Harrison County Area* (Penn); *Grist Mill Day IX* (Barnes); *Map: The Great Settlement Area of Kentucky*; *Licking River Barge Shipment Found in 1964—photo of grindstones on a barge that sank in 1830s on Licking River* (Penn)

Vol. 7 No. 6 (June) *No Halloween Tonight: Harrison County and the Spanish Influenza of 1918* (Naff); *WWI in Museum* (Barnes); *Friends of Griffith Woods formed* (P. Wood).

Vol. 7 No. 7 (Jul) *Battle of Cynthiana Reenactment to Celebrate 144th Anniversary Of First Battle of Cynthiana* (Penn); *Museum notes* (Barnes)

Vol. 7 No. 8 (Aug) *The “Widow Sparks Mystery—Heber Hicks* (Naff); *Museum 12th Anniversary* (Barnes)

Vol. 7 No. 9 (Sept) *Harrison County’s Lost Buildings—Asbury Broadwell residence; later Elks Lodge photo*; *The Barlow Knife—Once A Boy’s Favorite* (Penn); *State of the Museum Report* (Barnes); *Genealogy: Family Record of Vincent Cromwell* (Penn).

Vol. 7 No. 10 (Oct) *Remains To Be Seen: Heber Hicks trial* (Naff); *Funerary Displays in Museum* (Barnes)

Vol. 7 No. 11 (Nov) *Harrison Co.’s Lost Buildings: Harrison Motor Co. photo*; *The Junk Harvest of 1942 and Harrison County’s Memorial to World War I* (Naff) *Freedom Isn’t Free* (Barnes); *Barlow story addendum*.

Vol. 7 No. 12 (Dec) *Sleds and Skates: Favorite Winter Hills (and Ice)* - (Penn); *Photo of sheep on Alec Penn farm*; *Most Wonderful Time of the Year* (Barnes); *Harrison Heritage News Cumulative Index—2000-2006; Vol. 1 thru Vol. 7*.

Note: Monthly Columns 2006 not listed: President’s Column (Owen); HCHS Meeting minutes of last meeting.

Letter to the Editor

To the Editor,

I found the story about Heber Hicks [Harrison Heritage News Vol. 7 No. 8 August 2006—*The “Widow” Sparks Mystery*] very interesting as I was only ten years old at the time, but luckily still remember it. My parents, Helen McKinley Riggle and Cecil Riggle were invited by good friends, Jesse and Dorcas Kearns Adams, to go to Morgan, Ky., with them to deliver some tin roll pans to a customer there (Mr. Adams was a “roofer” and was the one who made the dark tin roll pans* and other things from tin; thus he was well known in the community as “tinner”). We had no automobile and I got to go along on the trip. On the way from Morgan, the men decided to go to the burial of “outlaw” Heber Hicks. Before we got close, cars were parked everywhere. The men got out and decided to walk on down the road. People began coming back to their cars, so we were waiting a while. Eventually we got to the cemetery. The men got out to look around. Thanks for the article. I now know the story of Mr. Hicks. Note *: Those roll pans you only find at auctions and are best sellers anywhere from \$15 to \$35, depending on the size. I have the two my mother was given and others I have purchased.

Mrs. J. T. (Ruby) Penn, Cynthiana

The Editor encourages readers to send comments on the articles we publish, either to furnish additional information, make corrections, or perhaps offer a different interpretation.